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ABSTRACT

The key role of the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is to help local people make rural America a better place to live and work. The Rural Development (RD) Committee structure, conceived in 1969, consists of national, state, regional, and local committees which aid the USDA. During fiscal year 1974, USDA and the State Extension Services continued to expand their rural development information and technical assistance, both quantitatively and qualitatively. Significant accomplishments were made in each of 10 concentrated program thrusts--organization and leadership development; comprehensive planning; community services and facilities; housing; health and welfare; manpower development; recreation and tourism; environmental improvement; business and industrial development; and rural cooperatives. This 1974 annual report presents the Department's efforts to enhance social, economic, and cultural progress in rural America. A consolidation and summary of information submitted by USDA agencies and State RD Committees, the report covers the membership, organization, and activities of State RD Committees; land-grant university information and technical assistance; and program thrusts in the 10 areas. Appendices include listings of State-USDA RD Committee Chairmen; national RD Committee members; Statewide non-USDA RD groups; State references; and abbreviations. (NQ)

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rural development

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Information and Technical Assistance Delivered by the Department of Agriculture in Fiscal Year 1974

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONGRESS
(Pursuant to Title IX, Section 901
of the Agricultural Act of 1970)

RURAL DEVELOPMENT:
"MAKING RURAL AMERICA
A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK"

PEOPLE BUILDING

- Job Training
- Education
- Health Services
- Food and Nutrition
- Cultural
- Income Security
- Leadership

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

- Housing
- Transportation
- Utilities
- Waste Disposal and Water Supply

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Jobs
- Agriculture
- Business
- Industry
- Credit

ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENT

- Conservation
- Recreation
- Forests and Wildlife
- Land Use Planning and Zoning

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

To the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House:

Today I am transmitting the fifth annual report on Information and Technical Assistance Delivered by the Department of Agriculture in Fiscal Year 1974, pursuant to Title IX, Section 901(d), of the Agricultural Act of 1970. This report outlines the key role of the Department in helping local people make rural America a better place to live and work.

I am happy to be able to report that, for the third consecutive year, the USDA agencies and Extension Services expanded their information and technical assistance to local communities, districts, and state planning and development groups. Assistance has increased by 68 percent over Fiscal Year 1971, the base year for which comparable figures are available.

Sincerely,

Earl L. Butz

EARL L. BUTZ
Secretary

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SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the state Extension Services continued to expand their rural development information and technical assistance in FY 74, both quantitatively and qualitatively. This fifth annual report to the Congress on the Department's efforts to enhance social, economic and cultural progress in rural America shows that USDA expanded its information and technical assistance for rural development (RD) to 5,379 man-years. This was an increase of 765 man-years, or 17 percent, over FY 73 and a 68 percent increase over FY 71, the base year for which comparable figures are available.

The Department, through its unparalleled delivery system, reaching from the national to state and local levels, assisted with nearly 190,000 different community projects in FY 74 and conducted 44,000 feasibility studies. The staff was also involved in more than 100,000 workshops, conferences and meetings on RD. These meetings were attended by key community leaders, public officials and other interested citizens seeking help in finding solutions to their pressing community problems. In addition, publications and audio-visual presentations were used extensively in providing information to assist in resolving the problems of rural America and promoting a more balanced growth in this nation.

Significant accomplishments were made in each of 10 concentrated program thrusts:

1. Organization and leadership development
2. Comprehensive planning
3. Community services and facilities
4. Housing
5. Health and welfare
6. Manpower development
7. Recreation and tourism
8. Environmental improvement
9. Business and industrial development
10. Rural cooperatives

Environmental improvement and organization and leadership development continue to be the program thrusts with the largest USDA resource input, with comprehensive planning and community services and facilities also commanding large portions of time. However, the thrusts of housing and health and welfare showed the largest percentage increases in FY 74 compared to FY 73.

The quantitative achievements are revealed in the statistical summary section of this report; the qualitative advances are described in the program thrust chapters.

Included also are the total efforts of Land-Grant Universities. The funding and implementation of Title V, the research and extension component of the Rural Development Act of 1972, generated much interest on the part of

Land-Grant Universities in expanding their contributions to RD during FY 74. Recognizing that people want to know and understand, want the best information possible for decision-making and want to have a voice in community decisions, the Land-Grant Universities are committed to the principle of generating and extending knowledge so that people are better able to take advantage of their opportunities.

All of these efforts are calculated to help community leaders push development ahead and make rural America a better place to live, work and enjoy life.

The RD Committee structure, conceived in 1969, is now meshing smoothly with agency activities at all levels. Again this year, this report features a section containing a short summary of overall state, regional and local committee membership, organization and activities, plus another section containing statements which, in the opinion of the committees, best represent their achievements during FY 74 and their plans, goals and areas of emphasis for the future.

All 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands have state-USDA RD committees. Ninety percent of the nation's counties are represented by either a county committee, an area committee or both. The entire area of 33 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands is served by local RD committees. In several states, rural development is considered so important that statewide development groups have been formed by the Governor, the General Assembly or other groups with statewide interest in RD. These groups usually have broad-based memberships and are related to USDA-state committees through interlocking memberships.

This report is a consolidation and summary of information submitted by USDA agencies and state RD Committees. A copy of the RD Committee Report for a specific state may be obtained by contacting the Committee Chairman for the state (see Appendix A).

The report was prepared under the overall guidance of the National RD Committee. The complete makeup of the National Committee is shown in Appendix B.

Information about statewide non-USDA rural development groups is included in Appendix C.

Appendix D offers a quick index to where the various states and territories are mentioned in the report. Appendix E explains abbreviations frequently used throughout the report.

This report is limited to rural development information and technical assistance and therefore excludes the technical and credit assistance provided for agricultural production and marketing, and for the construction, maintenance and service of housing, community facilities, water control structures and like projects. For instance, the primary function of Farmers Home Administration is loan making and servicing in three areas -- Farmer Programs, Community Programs and Housing; furnishing of information and technical assistance is incidental to that purpose.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

For the third consecutive year, the USDA agencies and Extension expanded their information and technical assistance on rural development to local communities, districts and state planning and development groups. (See Table 1). The 5,379 man-years expended in FY 74 compares to 4,614 man-years in FY 73, 4,301 in FY 72 and 3,200 in FY 71. Thus, the Department increased assistance by 17 percent over FY 73, 25 percent over FY 72 and 68 percent over FY 71.

Assistance increased in all 10 program thrust areas. Man-years devoted to community housing information and technical assistance showed the largest percentage increase, 44 percent, followed by health and welfare, 37 percent. Manpower development, business and industrial development and organization and leadership development had the smallest increases, all less than 10 percent. The other five program thrusts showed increases ranging from 11 to 21 percent.

The relative emphasis of the 10 program thrusts remained about the same as was reported in FY 73, with environmental improvement and organization and leadership development continuing to be the thrusts with the largest USDA resource input. Comprehensive planning and community services and facilities also received a great deal of attention in FY 74, as was the case in FY 73.

All of the "total" figures in Table 1 are up from FY 73, with the exception of audio-visual presentations. USDA agency and Extension staff assisted with nearly 190,000 projects in FY 74 and conducted 44,000 surveys and feasibility studies. The staff took the initiative in convening and conducting nearly 100,000 workshops, conferences and meetings on RD and assisted with approximately 130,000 more. Publications were used more extensively in assisting with RD in FY 74 than in FY 73.

Table 1 ---Rural Development Information and Technical Assistance Provided by USDA, FY 1974

Program Thrust	Man Years Expended	Projects Assisted	Surveys and Feasibility Studies	Workshops, Conferences and Meetings		Publications (Newsletters, Bulletins, Fact Sheets)		Audio-Visual Presentations
				Convened and Conducted	* Assisted	Different Publications Prepared	Total Number Distributed	
Organization and Leadership Development	983	52,298	2,770	35,843	23,145	43,296	1,703,582	10,972
Comprehensive Planning	769	30,519	17,802	11,172	36,942	26,528	1,040,628	5,264
Community Services and Facilities	642	38,246	7,885	10,524	17,530	55,077	1,538,680	6,182
Housing	400	10,843	2,034	7,340	9,388	32,423	1,052,068	5,610
Health and Welfare	228	7,767	1,232	8,055	7,153	40,457	1,015,269	6,097
Manpower Development	253	3,798	761	2,754	3,738	3,409	317,751	2,540
Recreation and Tourism	328	10,453	2,768	4,645	5,932	16,825	2,294,074	5,016
Environmental Improvement	1,436	26,765	6,761	13,713	16,450	85,373	6,273,881	27,067
Business and Industrial Development	234	4,902	1,566	2,328	5,842	12,156	711,577	2,745
Rural Cooperatives	106	2,045	422	1,641	2,267	3,504	226,818	905
TOTAL	5,379	187,636	44,001	98,015	128,387	319,048	16,174,328	72,398

* If more than one agency assisted with the same meeting, some duplication may be involved.

STATE RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES

Membership

Again this year, state committees expanded membership -- and again the increase was about 100 members. There are now more than 1,000 different persons serving on the 52 state RD committees (note Tables 2 and 3). Additional members were drawn from each of the five categories of membership, with the most new members added from state agencies and university faculty other than Extension staff.

Organization

All 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands have state-USDA RD committees. Ninety percent of the nation's counties are served by a county committee, an area committee or both. The map in the center spread of this report shows the location of the 2,140 county committees and 252 area committees.

The map also reveals that in 33 states (plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands not shown), the entire geographic area is represented by county committees, area committees or both. In some other states, all geographic areas are covered except those around large metropolitan areas (New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio, for instance).

Most state committees have enlarged their membership from the "core" USDA agencies to include representatives from other than USDA agencies, other federal agencies, state agencies (notably representatives of Governor's offices and planning departments), other university departments and citizen groups of various kinds. There are 17 states with memberships of 20 or more; others have large numbers serving on task forces or sub-committees.

In 14 states, rural development is considered so important that statewide RD groups have been formed by the Governor, the General Assembly or other groups with statewide interest in RD. These usually have broad-based memberships. The USDA-state committees relate to these state groups through interlocking memberships. The groups, chairmen and membership are shown in Appendix C at the end of the report.

The trend to expand the number of area (multi-county) sub-state committees, noted in both the third and fourth annual reports, continued in FY 74. There were seven more area committees nationwide in FY 74 than in FY 73. Three state committees reported area committees organized for the first time: Massachusetts, North Carolina and the Virgin Islands.

The trend to fewer county committees also continued, with a drop from 2,152 to 2,140, a decrease of less than one percent. Two committees, Minnesota and Nebraska, reported county committees organized for the first time; three

Table 2 -- Composition of State and Substate Rural Development Committees, FY 1974

State	Number of Members						Number of Area Committees	Number of County Committees
	USDA Including Extension	Other Federal Agencies	State Agencies	Other University Members	Citizen Groups, Organizations, Firms, etc.	Total Membership		
Alabama	11	1	6	2	2	22	0	67
Alaska	9	12	9	3	6	39	4	0
Arizona	15	11	43	18	9	96	6	0
Arkansas	8	0	2	1	0	11	8	75
California	7	1	11	2	4	25	0	0
Colorado	10	4	11	2	6	33	12	0
Connecticut	8	3	6	1	1	19	0	0
Delaware	8	0	1	3	0	12	0	3
Florida	8	3	6	3	1	21	0	65
Georgia	9	0	6	4	5	24	0	155
Hawaii	7	3	3	0	0	13	0	4
Idaho	7	2	1	1	0	11	4	42
Illinois	14	1	0	1	0	16	4	70
Indiana	10	3	7	0	0	20	14	0
Iowa	10	1	2	1	0	14	3	100
Kansas	14	1	3	0	1	19	11	105
Kentucky	8	0	3	0	1	12	12	98
Louisiana	10	1	8	5	0	24	0	61
Maine	7	0	5	0	0	12	2	7
Maryland	9	1	14	2	10	36	1	3
Massachusetts	12	0	2	1	0	15	3	0
Michigan	9	0	0	1	0	10	1	0
Minnesota	7	0	0	0	0	7	6	13
Mississippi	7	0	9	1	1	18	0	82
Missouri	9	4	4	3	1	21	20	0
Montana	10	0	5	2	0	17	6	50
Nebraska	11	0	2	1	0	14	26	70
Nevada	9	3	17	3	0	32	3	8

(Cont'd)

Table 2 -- Composition of State and Substate Rural Development Committees, FY 1974 (Cont'd)

State	Number of Members						Number of Area Committees	Number of County Committees
	USDA Including Extension	Other Federal Agencies	State Agencies	Other University Members	Citizen Groups, Organizations, Firms, etc.	Total Membership		
New Hampshire	8	0	3	1	0	12	0	0
New Jersey	10	1	5	0	0	16	2	11
New Mexico	11	0	1	0	0	12	7	23
New York	9	0	10	1	0	20	11	0
North Carolina	6	0	7	3	3	19	4	99
North Dakota	8	0	1	1	0	10	3	49
Ohio	9	0	2	0	0	11	4	84
Oklahoma	9	0	3	1	0	13	11	77
Oregon	8	2	5	2	0	17	14	0
Pennsylvania	8	0	2	1	0	11	3	67
Puerto Rico	9	0	3	2	0	14	5	73
Rhode Island	6	1	7	2	1	17	0	0
South Carolina	9	0	6	2	2	19	10	0
South Dakota	6	1	2	1	0	10	6	53
Tennessee	7	1	2	0	0	10	8	95
Texas	8	1	5	0	1	15	0	252
Utah	6	2	5	2	0	15	7	0
Vermont	5	1	8	1	1	16	5	0
Virgin Islands	6	0	0	0	0	6	0	1
Virginia	8	0	0	1	0	9	0	0
Washington	12	4	21	0	2	39	4	37
West Virginia	8	0	8	1	7	24	0	53
Wisconsin	8	5	11	2	21	47	2	65
Wyoming	14	1	6	5	1	27	0	23
TOTAL	461	75	309	90	87	1,022	252	2,140

Table 3 -- Who Serves on Rural Development Committees

Item	No. States Represented		No. of Members	
Members of State Committees	FY 74	FY 73	FY 74	FY 73
USDA Agencies, including Extension	52 1/	52 1/	461	450
Other Federal Agencies	28	21	75	71
State Agencies	47	48	309	271
Other University Members	39	30	90	56
Citizen Groups, Organizations, Firms, etc.	22	18	87	76
		TOTAL	1,022	924

	No. of States		No. Committees	
Sub-State Committees	FY 74	FY 73	FY 74	FY 73
Area (Multi-County)	36	34	252	245
County	35	36	2,140	2,152

1/ Including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Table 4 -- Major Activities Undertaken by State Rural Development Committees, FY 1974

Program Thrusts	No. State Committees Emphasizing Thrust
1. Organization and Leadership Development	33
2. Comprehensive Planning	35
3. Community Services and Facilities	29
4. Housing	21
5. Health and Welfare	19
6. Manpower Development	14
7. Recreation and Tourism	17
8. Environmental Improvement	23
9. Business and Industrial Development	24
10. Rural Cooperatives	6
11. Coordination, Cooperation Among Member Agencies	32
12. Coordination, Cooperation Between Member and Non-member Agencies and Organizations	30

others, Arizona, Michigan and Oregon, reported elimination of county committees (all have area committees, however).

Activities

Table 4 shows the number of state committees which have undertaken major activities and projects by 12 major thrusts in FY 74. Examples of these activities may be found in the Program Thrusts section of this report, especially in the chapter on Organization and Leadership Development.

Coordination and cooperation, both among member agencies and between member and nonmember agencies and groups, are functions of many committees. Degree of involvement in these areas was enumerated for the first time this year (Table 4). It can be seen that these two thrust categories plus organization and leadership development and comprehensive planning are the most common categorical thrusts of state committees.

The scope and breadth of activities of state committees is varied and innovative, however, almost defying precise categorization. However, these continuing (or new) types of activities were noted in many reports:

1. Involvement in implementation of Title V, the research and extension component of the Rural Development Act of 1972, plus support of and interest in other types of RD pilot programs.
2. RD training conferences and workshops.
3. Providing motivation, leadership and recognition for sub-state committees.
4. Assistance in disseminating useful information concerning the Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973.
5. Educational RD tours, conferences and workshops -- regional and statewide.
6. A coordinating role during the energy shortage.
7. Participation in the four regional RD workshops.
8. Participation in, and report-back from, the three National RD Leadership Schools.
9. Preparation, publication and dissemination of committee-developed or committee-sponsored publications and educational aids on various aspects of rural development.
10. Delineation of long-range priorities and goals for RD.
11. Involvement of youth and minorities in RD.
12. Assistance in disaster situations.

High recognition came to the West Virginia committee, the "Mountaineers for Rural Progress." This group received the USDA Superior Service Award. In previous years, the Alabama, Arizona and North Carolina committees were similarly recognized, as well as the Appanoose County, Iowa and Lasalle Parish, Louisiana committees.

Perhaps a fitting way to conclude this section is to quote from the Alabama committee report: "The (RD) Council is attempting to demonstrate that people from different areas of endeavor and with strong individual interests can make an important contribution to improving rural life by working cooperatively on programs of mutual concern."

SUMMARIES OF STATE-USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

ALABAMA

The Alabama-USDA Rural Development Council's philosophy emphasizes the involvement of local people in planning and implementing projects and programs. It operates on the premise that the key to rural development is more than programs and funds; it is local people--their needs, interests, motivation, capabilities, involvement and leadership.

The Council views its role as supportive and catalytic in nature and serves important functions of communication and liaison with relevant groups and organizations, leaving development and related decisions to the rural farm and nonfarm families affected. More specifically the Council attempts to:

1. Provide guidance to county USDA personnel for the organization, maintenance and function of county rural development citizen committees;
2. Provide training opportunities for members of county committees;
3. Act as liaison with relevant public and private agencies and organizations at the area, state and national levels; and
4. Promote individual agency and group initiative and communication through which effort can be focused on common problems.

Since the Alabama Council's major effort is directed toward the involvement of local people, much of its energy is spent in promoting the organization and effective functioning of county rural development committees. Such a citizen's group is operating in each of Alabama's 67 counties and is assisted and supported by USDA field personnel and by professionals from other public and private organizations. County Extension Chairmen serve as secretaries to these county committees and their membership is broadly constituted, reflecting both geographic and socio-economic interests. The 67 county RD committees serve as a forum for airing, investigating and highlighting local needs and problems. They planned and are in the process of implementing 314 projects.

The Council is attempting to demonstrate that people from different areas of endeavor and with strong individual interests can make an important contribution to improving rural life by working cooperatively on programs of mutual concern. If rural development programs are to be most successful, this lesson must be learned by both professional workers and citizens at all levels.

ALASKA

The Alaska Rural Development Council is broadly constructed, consisting of approximately 40 key federal, state and private organizations. During this fiscal year, the Council attempted to increase dialogue with the Alaska Native community, resulting in active participation by both statewide and regional Alaska Native organizations. A principal role of the Council has been that of serving as a forum for in-depth consideration of major state issues, concerns and programs.

A major achievement of the Council during FY 74 was the completion of an Alaska agricultural potential study. The study identifies an estimated 15 million acres of land potentially suitable for commercial agriculture. Its supporting resource maps and data are being widely used as Alaskan leaders consider alternatives in land planning, use and development. The study was developed by 11 different agencies, coordinated through the Council, and represents the culmination of nearly three years of dedicated effort by contributing agencies.

The broad general goals of the Council are to provide increased awareness of Alaskan concerns, improve communication among assisting agencies and Alaskan leaders and, through this process, provide assistance in development on a coordinated basis. Regional councils provide similar support in Southeast Alaska, Interior Alaska, the Matanuska-Susitna Valleys and the Kenai-Kodiak Island area.

ARIZONA

The State Committee expressed these major goals for FY 74:

1. Meet with Rural Communities: The Committee met with the town of Fredonia (as a follow-up to a FY 73 meeting). This has resulted in the consolidation of three water systems, the completion of the first two-state (Arizona and Utah) water systems, revitalization of the water distribution systems and other improvements. Other community developments in both private and public sectors are on the drawing board.

   A meeting was held with the Cocopah Indian Nation and plans are being completed for improved housing, tribal farm operation and better employment opportunities.

   A meeting was held with the town of Gila Bend. This has resulted in the town acquiring ownership of the water system and has enabled them to retain an industrial plant that was about to be lost due to inadequate water service. This plant employs 120 people, which is a major enterprise for a town of under 2,000.

   Two meetings were held with the Hopi Indian Tribe. These meetings were held recently and it is too early to see and report on the outcome.

2. Develop a Thrust Area into Land Use Planning: A series of meetings have been held on land use planning with participation from the State Land Department, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service and others.

3. Committee Education Programs: These programs were conducted at monthly meetings that were not held in rural communities.

ARKANSAS

The State USDA Committee attempts to determine the need of the people within the state by working through the district and county committees. Through counseling and advice with the district and county committees, efforts are made to assist the local leadership with these problems. The committee has operated under the assumption that all projects and activities should be implemented at the grass-roots level. Therefore, there has been no effort to direct projects to the people from the state level but to recognize the needs and, through the county USDA committees, get the sanction and support of the leadership concerning various programs and activities that need to be carried out through the counties.

Some of the ways that the State USDA Committee has tried to strengthen organization and leadership development are:

1. By attending the district committee meetings throughout the state or by inviting district chairmen to meet with the State USDA Committee.

2. By working with the Rural Development Service in identifying five leaders to attend the National Rural Development School held in Asheville, North Carolina. Two of these leaders were invited to attend the May State Committee meeting at which time they gave a report of the activities of the school and some of the things that they gained from their experience.

3. County USDA chairmen meet periodically with some of the district committees to report on their activities and plans. Most district committees in some way keep up with the activities being undertaken at the county level. In one district, the district committee meets in different counties with the respective USDA committee. This is a means of motivating them to greater cooperative effort.

4. By assisting district committees with training or special meetings on subjects of importance.

CALIFORNIA

The California Rural Affairs Council views its role as being supportive to local people and their efforts to improve conditions in rural areas. The Council serves an important function of communications and liaison between groups and organizations that can assist with rural problems. Its objectives are to improve economic conditions in the non-metropolitan parts of the state by helping to expand employment opportunities and by improving community facilities and services. More specifically, it carries out this program by: (1) identifying opportunities and issues involved in rural development planning; (2) working with state, community, and private sector groups to assist in formulating policies for rural development: (3)consulting with local groups who are interested in organizing planning and coordinating bodies; (4) performing a facilitating role for local problem solving; (5) providing a catalytic function for local groups through educational information; (6) serving as a coordinating body for those programs and services available to local areas from federal and state agencies.

COLORADO

The State Rural Development Committee continued to review A-95 proposals and act as liaison and support to the 13 area RD committees. This year's activities were not aimed at specific communities or projects. There are a number of regional and local RD activities, however, under the auspices of area committees which are reviewed from time to time by the State Committee.

One of the major innovations in the Committee's activities during FY 74 was monthly meetings in regional locations. The Committee met in Haxtun and Colorado Springs in conjunction with area committees. The Committee also held a joint Colorado-Kansas meeting and hosted a tour for the Kansas Committee of major areas of industrial and community growth centers.

The Committee reviewed and provided advisory inputs relative to Title V of the Rural Development Act.

The Committee has also been following the progress of land use legislation and its implementation within the state. Through its regional tours, the Committee has had an opportunity to observe land use problems and to hear local and regional viewpoints expressed by community leaders and lay citizens. The Committee receives periodic briefings on land use related matters currently being dealt with by various state agencies.

The vice-chairman of the State Committee has been keeping the Committee informed on implementation of the Rural Development Act, particularly activity relating to applications being processed for business and industrial loans.

The Committee has received briefings relative to oil shale development potential and related concerns confronting those areas targeted for oil shale production activities.

The Committee performs primarily a coordinating and clearing house function and attempts to facilitate communications of program development activity among and between state and federal agencies within the state. The Committee anticipates a continuance of this type of activity for the coming fiscal year.

CONNECTICUT

The Connecticut USDA Rural Development Committee during FY 74 devoted its time to five major areas of concern: comprehensive planning, community services and facilities, health and welfare, housing and environmental improvement.

The major effort in comprehensive planning was continuing work with the Office of Planning and Budget on the State Plan of Conservation and Development. In addition, members of the committee have served as members or technical advisors to the Governor's Committee on the Preservation of Agricultural Land.

In community services and facilities, the committee has continued to be concerned with work being done on on-site sewage disposal systems, and participated in a seminar on soil absorption characteristics. This work has been carried on with full recognition that other solid waste management practices must be incorporated into the programs in the state and that municipalities will continue to be assisted.

Housing concerns for low and moderate income programs will continue and much of this work will be in cooperation with such organizations as the Northeastern Connecticut Community Development Corporation and the New England Non-Profit Housing Organization.

Health districts and their organizations will continue to receive attention as efforts are made to expand upon the work which led to the formation of the Northeastern Connecticut District Department of Health which officially became functional on July 1, 1973. There are two other areas of the state which are considering such an organization and member agencies of the RD Committee will continue to work with these communities.

During FY 75, the RD Committee plans to continue its work with environmental improvement, the delivery of health care services and a study of health care needs in rural areas of the state, in cooperation with nonmetropolitan regional planning agencies.

Because of the highly organized nature of this state, the member agencies of the committee do a great deal of direct work with municipal officials, local planning and zoning groups, regional planning agencies, industrial commissions and state agencies. In some circumstances, the committee as a whole will assist.

A good deal of time of the committee will be devoted to being aware of what is being done by each member and determining how work being carried on may be supplemented and complemented through joint efforts. One way in which this will be done is that the USDA Rural Development Committee and the Connecticut Federal/State Relations Office will jointly sponsor a seminar bringing to the attention of appropriate state agencies and local decision makers the relevant facts on the Rural Development Act of 1972 and how it may be useful and an aid to Connecticut rural communities as they move forward.

DELAWARE

The Delaware USDA Resource Development Committee was organized for the basic purpose of helping individuals and communities in the nonmetropolitan areas of the state to improve their overall quality of living. The objectives of the committee are: (1) development of economic opportunities; (2) improvement of community organization and leadership; (3) effective use of government programs and services; (4) to increase the effectiveness of educational efforts.

It is quite clear to the Committee that community and resource development programs must be carried out in close cooperation with state and local agencies, if these programs are to be effective. One of the main goals of the Committee is to encourage state and local agencies to understand and use the services of federal agencies in the overall development of rural Delaware. Most of the emphasis of the 1974 committee meetings was on the development of cooperative programs with state agencies so that rural Delaware would be better served by a combination of federal and state programs.

In FY 75 major emphasis will continue to be given to the First State Resource Conservation and Development project which includes all three counties in the state. The local people in the state, with considerable assistance from county resource development commitees, have submitted more than 150 proposed measures in the project plan. Among those they included plans to:

1. Assist in the preservation of prime agricultural land.
2. Improve community facilities.
3. Encourage industrial development.
4. Improve drainage and control flooding.
5. Develop public recreation facilities.
6. Improve fish and wildlife habitat.
7. Promote better woodland management.

State and county committees will do all possible to assist local, state and federal agencies in developing and implementing the various project proposals as outlined in the First State RC&D Project Plan.

FLORIDA

The Florida USDA Committee for Rural Development became more than a "USDA" committee in FY 74. Adding four vital state agencies as members of the Committee broadened the scope of activities and added much to the Committee's working strength. Involving the new agency members on the task force training USDA county councils gave county workers new insights on rural development tools available through state government. The state agencies are gaining better recognition of USDA resources as a necessary ingredient in rural development.

The Florida Committee plans to intensify training programs for county councils and develop even closer relationships with state agencies that can contribute to the solutions of rural problems. New avenues of cooperation will be explored with state agency personnel not already on the committee membership list. Stronger program coordination and closer working relationships will be established with the staffs of the 10 newly-formed planning districts throughout the state.

GEORGIA

The attitude of the Georgia State Rural Development Committee continues to be that it is an advisory group which looks at the broad aspects of rural development in Georgia. This is as opposed to the project orientation of the county committees. The State Committee is in a constant state of self-evaluation and reorientation in response to the needs and desires of local committees and local leaders as well as changing policies and programs from state and federal sources.

Concerns noted are difficulty of maintaining program input and continuity from the county committee to the state committee to the national committee.

HAWAII

The State Rural Development Committee has been involved in the areas of organization and leadership development, comprehensive planning, community services and facilities and rural housing improvement during FY 74.

An example of activities in organization and leadership development:

The island of Molokai is faced with serious socio-economic problems related to an announced phase-out of the 16,000-acre pineapple production operation that supplies either directly or indirectly approximately 50 percent of total job opportunities available to the 5,000 island people.

The county government has established a task force with professional, technical and lay participation to consider the problems of transition and identify possible alternatives available to the people as phase-out becomes reality. The Committee has supplied both technical assistance to the task force and leadership training to lay leaders as they participate in activities of the task force.

Pilot projects are being established to test new crops to possibly replace pineapple. However, significant numbers of new jobs have not yet developed. Training programs for new farmers have trained 30 persons who may use some of the lands available in diversified agriculture.

Other Committee efforts have been in agricultural enterprises not compatible with urbanization, assistance with water and sewer systems and efforts to help provide decent, safe and sanitary housing in rural areas of Hawaii County and to help develop planned rural communities.

IDAHO

The Committee has succeeded in enlarging representation by adding a regular member from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Committee has been highly successful in coordinating the efforts of individual agencies and improving communications between agencies.

Efforts of the Committee were not as successful as desired relative to activities in the land use planning area. However, plans for next year include an increased effort by the local government capabilities in the development of some sort of comprehensive land use planning legislation.

The Committee plans to continue its efforts to improve communications and coordination between member and nonmember agencies and organizations.

ILLINOIS

The major achievement of the State Rural Development Committee for FY 74 was holding a State Rural Development Conference jointly sponsored with state government. Leaders were invited from all sections of the state to tell their stories of successful RD accomplishment. Success stories included securing more jobs for different areas of the state, installation of water and sewage systems and operation of successful recreational enterprises. These stories were published in a conference proceedings and given to all conference participants and to all county USDA agency offices in Illinois. Additional copies were provided for the USDA agencies' state offices and to state government. The State RD Committee, working with local RD committees, has planned a similar regional conference for Western Illinois on October 3, 1974.

The State RD Committee made studies of six major areas -- land use, energy, youth, water quality, small committee problems and forest resources -- to determine if the Committee should provide additional leadership in these areas. A land use task force and a water quality committee were organized to provide leadership for carrying out expanded state programs.

INDIANA

The number one project of the Rural Development Committee was to assist with organizing a regional planning commission in the 17 economic development regions of the state.

In FY 74, 14 regional development planning commissions were organized and directors appointed. The other three regions have a proposed budget and will employ a director in FY 75.

The state Rural Development Committee assigned the chairman of the Regional Rural Development Committee as a member of the Rural Urban Advisory Committee which helped organize the regional commission.

Other projects of the State Committee were an age and aging seminar and a seminar on jobs. More than 300 people from all over the state attended the seminars.

IOWA

The State USDA Rural Development Committee developed a 32-page publication, "Land Use Policy-Guide for a Growing Iowa."

The State Committee believes that active participation of all people is desired in developing a new land use policy. Local decisionmakers and the general public must be informed about the land, its use, its capabilities, and the people's needs. The publication is intended to help provide that information.

The publication notes that population is increasing, land is a limited resource, and advancing science and technology allow man to change the face of the earth. A land use policy must provide for both present and future needs of man in:

Food and Fiber Production
Forestry
Industrial Growth
Transportation
Urban Expansion
Recreation

Fifteen thousand copies are being distributed to leaders in local government and community leaders.

During FY 75, the State Committee will continue to create awareness of significant considerations in land use policy.

KANSAS

Each of the 11 regional USDA RD committees and the 105 county committees submitted a rural development plan of work to the State Committee chairman by December 1, 1973. This achievement has been a long-time goal of the State Committee.

To prepare for this accomplishment, the Committee had prepared and published four publications in the spring of 1973.

USDA middle management personnel participated in a training school during which they prepared the regional plans of work. Regional committees then planned and conducted 13 training schools for county committees to assist them with the development of county plans.

A total of 444 plan of work goals were chosen for implementation by the county committees. Regional and county committees are in the process of implementing their goals.

Other important activities of the Kansas Committee have been: cooperating with the Colorado USDA Committee on a joint meeting followed by a tour to observe their land use problems; sponsorship of a series of six interagency land utilization training schools attended by 280; revision of the state plan of work for 1974; developing plans for middle management schools in August, 1974 and publication of INTERCOM, an in-house monthly newsletter which was sent to all USDA personnel in Kansas.

KENTUCKY

The Committee completed and widely distributed a position statement on rural development.

The Committee has continued to cooperate with the Kentucky Development Committee in meetings, information dissemination and making available expertise statewide.

FY 75 plan of operations includes a statement by the Chairman as follows:

> "I see the job of the Rural Development Committee as one of motivating our field organizations to: (1) learn about and from each other, (2) coordinate their efforts where necessary, (3) have a high regard for real service to the public and (4) have a keen awareness of how each of their efforts relates to the total rural development effort."

The Committee adopted the following objectives for FY 75, and is establishing action groups to carry out the objectives:

OBJECTIVE I: Develop an agricultural land use monitoring system which will provide data for guidance in application and/or maintenance of proper land use practices. Increasing needs for food and fiber will result in expanded and more intensive agriculture land use. Such use, if not properly managed, could result in serious erosion and other environmental problems.

OBJECTIVE II: Determine effects of the energy shortage upon farm and woodland crop management and use.

OBJECTIVE III: Improve the flow of communications between the State RDC, District Agency Committees, and County Agency Committees.

OBJECTIVE IV: Encourage greater involvement of local people in land use planning.

LOUISIANA

The Louisiana Rural Development Committee is composed of 21 members and meets quarterly. The Committee has established six working committees with a total membership of approximately 125 persons. The combined membership of the State Committee and the working committees make up the Louisiana Rural Development Council .

The RD Committee meets quarterly. Among other activities, the Committee will hear reports from one or more of the working committees. The State Committee will endorse some projects and lend whatever support is necessary for success of the project.

The Rural Development Council meets quarterly also. The State RD Committee plans the agenda. The meetings are held in various areas of the state in cooperation with the nonmetropolitan planning districts. The agenda usually includes a parish RD committee report and a report from the planning district. The parish RD committee members from the district are invited to attend the meeting. This keeps them in touch with the State Committee and the local nonmetropolitan planning district program.

Each working committee has regular meetings and plans activities or materials that will support and strengthen the local committee activities.

The Louisiana Rural Development Committee will continue to give leadership in developing community structures for more effective citizen participation in community development. The leadership and problem identification survey will continue to receive high priority. The working committees will continue to develop materials and activities that will strengthen the local effort in rural development.

MAINE

The Maine State USDA Rural Development Committee does not itself function as an action group in carrying out as a committee specific rural development projects and activities. It provides assistance when requested and coordination when required by area and county rural development committees. The latter provide the direct service to local groups in carrying out specific rural development projects and activities.

Among the activities in which one or more agencies represented on the state, area or county committees have been involved include: small community and regional planning, soil workshops, small town sewer and water systems, expanding rural telephone service, improving management of woodland and utilization of forest products, agricultural and solid waste pollution control, increasing commercial and home food production, conserving energy and zoning shoreland areas.

MARYLAND

The Maryland Rural Affairs Council has made significant input into the operation of many organizations interested in rural development. It has assisted the Maryland Farm and Home Safety Council, a group actively engaged in attempting to determine patterns and causes of farm accidents in Maryland. Ten of the 15 members of the State Title V Rural Development Advisory Committee are also members. MRDAC has approved an innovative approach to rural development -- a study of the feasibility of an "Economic Development Zone" in Dorchester County.

The Council has maintained close contact with local and regional groups on the Eastern Shore concerning the ramifications to rural Maryland of the

Rail Reorganization Act of 1973. In response to local requests, MRAC has expressed its concern in a formal statement to the Rail Services Planning Office of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Land use education has been and will continue to be a major thrust of the Council. Through its co-sponsoring of statewide land use seminars and as a consultant to a statewide committee on preservation of agricultural land, the Council has been an important force in this issue in our state.

In its plans for the future, the Council will devise a systematic means of keeping the members informed of new federal and state legislative and administrative thrusts which affect rural Maryland. In turn, members will then disseminate this information to their agencies and to their clientele.

Perhaps what is more important, the Council plans to continue to hold a significant percentage of its meetings in various rural areas of Maryland. In this manner, the Council may become more attuned to local problems.

MASSACHUSETTS

A general reorganization of the Committee structure has provided the basis for increased effectiveness. Briefly, the establishment of a State Rural Development Task Force by the Massachusetts Commission of Agriculture has focused the attention of state administration on this topic. The Massachusetts Rural Development Committee maintains constant liaison with this group and emphasizes USDA membership in its own Committee makeup. In this connection, Alan Freeman, Regional Representative for Intergovernmental Affairs of the Secretary of Agriculture's Office, USDA, has met with and become a regular member of the Committee.

In addition to the above shift, three regional RD committees have been appointed. They, in part, contain the same representation as the State Committee. It is expected that they will provide the local input for consideration by the State Committee.

Among the outstanding accomplishments in FY 74 were: Implementation of Title V of the Rural Development Act by cooperative agreement as to the need for base data in identifying realistic problems; the use of computer analysis (Dartmouth Study) in the analysis of community problems; a statewide transportation conference to provide a springboard for USDA approaches to these problems; an increased attention to the problems of the coastal area (including several seminars held on this); cooperation with the Air Conservation Council in developing an air environmental awareness seminar; working together with SCS and related agencies in developing an environmental quality index for individual towns; and supplying an informational base for attracting new industry. In connection with the last named effort, it appears that a new large plywood plant will locate in Western Massachusetts.

Generally the State Committee has provided an extremely effective liaison function in enabling the many agencies to perform successfully in the community and rural development field.

MICHIGAN

Again this year, the State USDA Committee was operating under somewhat of a handicap. The Michigan Governor's Committee on Rural Development was inactive. Four task forces were appointed to study opportunities for RD programming. The findings of these task forces are not available. The USDA Rural Development Committee thought it appropriate to gear its efforts to complement State Committee goals. No guidance or direction was forthcoming.

The USDA Committee met on an average of every other month. Each participating agency has been asked to present its agency goals and significant programs. This has been interesting and helpful in consideration of cooperative RD projects.

An area committee was established to identify area projects for cooperative efforts.

Nine committee members met in Grayling, June 21, 1974 to move this regional approach to activity stages.

This Northeast Michigan (Northern lower peninsula) area includes the Northeast Michigan Regional Planning and Development Commission, the Huron Pines Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) project as well as multi-county arrangements for FmHA, ASCS, SCS, Forest Service and the Extension Service.

The following recommendations were agreed upon:

1. Evaluate present Rural Development Council activities and successes.
2. Evaluate structure and membership of Rural Development Council.
3. Explore agency membership as an addition or complementary group (many remember the successful programs that grew out of the "Old" USDA councils).
4. Request county committees to identify RD projects.
5. Each member of this area committee to explore the above ideas with his own agency people and report each at a September meeting.
6. At September meeting, determine direction, goals, procedures to move ahead on most desirable course of action.

All area Rural Development Committee members are enthusiasitc about the possibilities this cooperative approach provides.

The 13 fact books (20 coincide with the then 13 planning and development regions) developed last year were distributed through Extension offices and the offices of the planning and development districts. These books contained a wealth of census information delineated by county and region. Many agencies and organizations used this comparative information to help select priority community programs.

The USDA Council has asked participants of the Third National Rural Development Leaders School (13 local Michigan leaders attended) to meet with us at our next meeting. We are looking forward to this meeting for new ideas that will strengthen county, area and state programs.

MINNESOTA

The major accomplishment again this year, by the State Committee, is that of improving inter-agency communications, referrals and interaction at the state level.

Locating programs and increasing their accessibility to the USDA regional committees who are in direct contact with the people is another achievement which helped people solve problems they confronted in their local developmental efforts.

Plans for FY 75 include more effort in locating people active at the regional level and bringing them together with the USDA regional staffs. More emphasis on educational efforts designed to meet the needs of agency staffs directly involved at the local level will be a major undertaking during FY 75.

Business and industrial development, land use, health care and improved coordination and cooperation among members and nonmember agencies and organizations will be the primary thrust areas for FY 75. Housing will also be important as well as community services and facilities; however, they will generally receive less attention than the three other thrust areas.

MISSISSIPPI

Pilot Rural Development Project: The Mississippi Rural Development Committee appointed a subcommittee to look into the possibilities of selecting a small geographic area to do some concerted RD work. The subcommittee was functioning when Title V of the Rural Development Act was funded. Representatives of the Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service and Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Station met with the State RD Committee for the purpose of getting assistance in selecting the geographic area and gain support for the programs to be undertaken under Title V. The RD Committee passed a motion that Calhoun, Grenada and Yalobusha Counties be the geographic area.

The action of the State Committee served as the final input in selecting the area. When all considerations concerning the advantages and disadvantages of all possible combinations were completed, it was concluded that a combined three-county target area provided the greatest opportunities for economic and human development. The State Committee assisted in identifying the three-county pilot area and reiterated its intentions to jointly sponsor the RD Pilot Program.

County Rural Development Committees Plan of Action: The RD Committee, being interested in providing better services and assistance to county RD committees, needed more information relative to rural development programs and projects in the counties. County committees were requested to provide the State Committee with a plan of action for each program or project to be undertaken by the county committee during 1975.

Federal Regional Council: The Mississippi Committee was contacted by the USDA representative of the Southeastern Federal Regional Council. Representatives of the Council were invited to present information relative to USDA's role on the Council and met with the Committee twice during FY 74. The representative outlined the role of USDA on the Council, including working with State RD Committees and other agencies to enhance rural development. He also informed the Committee of the Council's coordination and liaison roles with other agencies.

MISSOURI

The State Rural Development Committee has continued to function as a policy-making and advisory group. The importance and acceptance of its coordinating and liaison efforts have been of increasing value to all groups with developmental programs. The local committees, functioning at the regional (multi-county) level, have been the direct action groups. The devotion of time and effort to the free exchange of ideas and information between committee members has greatly improved inter-agency communications, and resulted in better, speedier and more efficient support for local development efforts.

Specific actions have been attributed in most instances to the agencies involved rather than to the RD Committee as a separate entity. This does not make for maximum visibility or recognition of the State Committee, but the Committee members feel that it has resulted in more positive benefits for the people of rural Missouri than another approach would have produced.

MONTANA

The Montana State USDA Committee for Rural Development, to some degree, paused this year to consider the direction we are headed, the accomplishments the Committee has made and the course of the direction for the future. While there were actions and projects carried out, probably the most necessary function the Committee undertook was some assessment of its purposes for the future and how those purposes can be attained.

The Committee did enlarge its size by inviting various State of Montana agency heads to become members. We feel we are working well with state agencies and expect greater accomplishments in the future.

The Committee generally feels each agency must take a more active role in Committee affairs in order to carry out rural development in the field. The Committee also feels strongly that this RD must happen in the field rather than around the table in the State Committee. Motivation of local citizens to be aware and be ready to accomplish rural development in their home towns and counties is still the number one goal.

NEBRASKA

A state plan of work was published including 16 areas of emphasis:

1. Mobilizing and sustaining local group action.
2. Farm income.
3. Adjustments to change.
4. Rural housing.
5. Rural water.
6. Transportation.
7. Communications.
8. Planning and zoning.
9. Pollution.
10. Improving and protecting the landscape.
11. Woodland resources.
12. Outdoor recreation.
13. Agribusiness.
14. Rural credit.
15. Soil-land-water.
16. Undesirable plants and insects.

Each of the county and area committees chose one or more of the plan areas for emphasis. Planning and zoning was most frequently chosen.

An out-state meeting of the State Committee was held in conjunction with the Resource Conservation Development and Planning Council (RCD & PC) in the Panhandle. This served to give more visibility and emphasis to the RCD & PC and RD Committee efforts.

The Nebraska Committee increased its membership by three with the addition of Federal Crop Insurance, Agricultural Experiment Station and Agricultural Research Service.

In the year ahead the Nebraska Committee plans to continue to function as a forum for discussion of rural problems and a coordinating body bringing together the many diverse interests and resources available for rural development. •

NEVADA

The Rural Development Committee effort to establish a State Council on the subject of improving the image of agriculture from membership of various agriculture organizations was a worthwhile achievement.

It was the feeling of the Committee that the urban sector did not fully understand the problems, costs, etc. of producing the nation's food. To bring about a better understanding of the importance of agriculture, the Council will develop, display, and use all available news media to reach the urban public with factual data on agriculture's importance to provide adequate food and fiber.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The New Hampshire Resources Development Committee has a major leadership role in the state in people development. That is, it is people who either use wisely, misuse or squander resources. It is to the wise use of resources that the committee is committed. The committee, serving as a mechanism for channeling information and technical assistance to individuals and communities, serves also as a mechanism for coordinating and stimulating the community development process necessary for the effectuation of the many development projects initiated throughout the state.

The committee will continue to assist "grass roots" leaders and groups in understanding and applying the community development process and in utilizing the resource delivery system of USDA agencies, other federal agencies and state agencies. Emphasis will be placed on needs as they are identified. For the coming year, land use, community planning, impact of economic growth on local communities, leadership development and community facilities and services will be emphasized.

NEW JERSEY

The New Jersey State Resource Development Committee meets quarterly, with the specific goal of coordination and liaison among the member federal and state agencies.

One of the most outstanding achievements as a committee was the planning, promotion and implementation of a statewide rural resources development conference entitled "Rural New Jersey - How Much is Needed." Richard Chumney, Director, Rural Resources, State Department of Agriculture, asserted the leadership.

Assistant Secretary William Erwin keynoted the conference with an address, "Rural Development in Urban New Jersey." The State Committee also had the honor of meeting with Secretary Erwin for a frank discussion on New Jersey land use problems.

The Committee and member agencies continue to make progress in alerting the seven million New Jersey residents on the need for open space and land use reform. Two major land use formulas have been initiated in an attempt to keep agriculture and open space.

The first of these was a proposal by the Governor's Commission to preserve one million acres of prime agricultural land through the state purchase of easement rights financed by a $4 million real estate transfer tax.

The other method proposed, which requires additional research to determine its local applicability, is the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR). The Title V Research and Extension proposal under the Rural Development Act of 1972 will, hopefully, result in some answers to this most critical land use problem.

The Committee's goal for the future is to secure some pragmatic answers to the near crisis in land use problems in New Jersey.

NEW MEXICO

The New Mexico State USDA Rural Development Committee feels that FY 74 has perhaps not been one of the best. Despite the many pressures because of cuts in appropriations, reduction of personnel, among others, the Committee does feel, however, that it functioned rather well. The Committee can certainly boast of good attendance at all the regular meetings, continued dedication and good work of the many appointed ad hoc committees, and the continued constructive input from each and every one of the members.

The two largest accomplishments:

1. To keep and to continue strengthening the cooperative and coordinated spirit with which the Committee approached and followed through in its deliberations to carry out its objectives.
2. Expansion of Committee influence and activities through the mutual cooperation of the USDA district teams providing leadership to the various rural communities throughout the state.

The Committee will continue to emphasize the importance of coordination and cooperation and to keep on motivating rural communities to provide growth for themselves. The Committee will continue to study the various situations and make recommendations accordingly. This Committee plans to reassess its role and to establish achievable goals for 1975. It will attempt to not only think out a plan of action but put it down in writing. Also, the Committee plans to initiate a comprehensive training program in the rural development process particularly to the smaller communities that do not have this type of training available.

NEW YORK

Operating under the spirit of cooperation developed in the past, the committee this year has moved beyond the specific programs of the

Rural Development Act to begin evaluating conditions that exist in rural New York and identifying the types of federal and State policies and programs that will allow these areas to achieve their potential.

The completion of a report on rural development strategy commissioned by the committee and involvement in an informative tour of South Western New York have allowed the committee to make significant progress in these areas of endeavor. Additionally the committee has established effective liaison with the Office of the Governor, non-member agencies and the Federal Regional Council.

Our goal for the future is unchanged: To create an atmosphere of cooperation among agencies that will allow the most comprehensive assistance to rural communities seeking to improve their economic, social and environmental well-being.

The Committee will continue to evaluate conditions and recommend appropriate policies and programs for rural New York.

To achieve these objectives a series of multi-regional meetings to gain local and regional perspectives on the conditions in rural areas and the development of position papers regarding identified priority situations are planned. These findings and recommendations will be presented to state and federal authorities in an effort to improve the assistance available to our rural communities.

NORTH CAROLINA

The State Rural Development Committee focused on improving environmental quality and health care in FY 74. Programs on environmental quality emphasized land-use planning, including coastal zone management; sedimentation pollution control and solid and animal waste disposal. Publications on "North Carolina Land-Use Data" and "The Gathering of the Waters" were prepared and thousands of copies of these materials and the"Land-Use Packet" prepared in FY 73 were disseminated to state and local leaders. Four regional workshops on environmental quality and seven workshops on animal waste disposal were held for county rural development panels and representatives of multi-county planning districts. Information and counsel were provided in preparing the 1974 Sedimentation Pollution Control Act and administrative guidelines for the Act passed by the State Legislature.

Activities on rural health care emphasized preventive health care, improving the delivery of health services currently available and improving primary health care. A slide-tape program on rural health centers to provide primary health care is being completed. A survey to determine major rural health problems was conducted and the results summarized.

NORTH DAKOTA

A chief concern and activity of the Committee this past year was coal development in North Dakota along with land use and planning. A close relationship was established with the State Division of Planning. Guidelines for regional planning councils were discussed with the director of the Division of Planning. Recommendations were made by the committee on state legislation and its application to land use planning.

The Committee kept informed on RC&D projects and met with RC&D representatives and advised them on items that could best meet the needs of the public.

The Committee developed a slide-tape program and brochure with the assistance of a staff task force. These items are being used by county RD committees and individual agencies for presentation to the public to make them aware and concerned about land use planning.

The Committee initiated an occupational exposure project to advise students about jobs that are available in rural areas through the U.S. Government.

Emphasis for the future includes community services and facilities, environmental improvement training programs, opportunities for minority citizens and organization and leadership development to help community leaders better understand opportunities and resources available for improving their community.

OHIO

The State Committee for Ohio Rural Development is designed to enhance the opportunity for federal, state and local agencies to work together effectively on rural development activities that are of mutual interest. Two major aims in order to accomplish this are: (1) to maintain open communication channels between the agencies involved and (2) to determine objectives and improved methods of working together through a mutually developed plan of work. Many of the activities of the overall committee are carried out by subcommittees.

The pilot project for community development called "I 70/77" continued to be the focal point for many activities during the past year. It is expected that in 1974-75 several projects will come to fruition that have taken years to develop through local initiatives.

Materials prepared by the State Committee were distributed throughout Ohio by county committees. Even greater Committee involvement is anticipated next year on such issues as land use planning, rural housing, environmental improvement and industrialization. Additional emphasis during the coming year will also be given to participating cooperatively in carrying out opportunities afforded by the passage and implementation of the Rural Development Act.

OKLAHOMA

The Oklahoma USDA Rural Development Committee (members and alternates) has continued to meet regularly on a monthly basis except during August. However, the Committee officially meets as an Executive Committee on alternate months. Even so, various alternates, as well as other guests, regularly attend Executive Committee meetings, thus showing increased interest.

Major thrusts of the Committee continue to be worked on through the county USDA rural development committees and the county development councils (sponsored by the county committees). Many of the county development councils have become outstanding in their local leadership in setting priorities, stimulating activities, and motivating other people in their communities to achieve effective action programs.

The addition of the executive directors of the sub-state planning districts to the district USDA rural development committees and the addition of the representatives of the State Department of Agriculture and County Commissioners' Association to the State Committee have expanded the working relationships of the State Committee into an even broader area of cooperation.

Although the State Committee itself has not sponsored a tremendous number of activities, the close working relationships brought about by the regular meetings and free exchange of information on the State Committee has resulted in better cooperation in the activities of projects undertaken by individual Committee members.

OREGON

The Oregon State Rural Development Committee is comprised of members of all USDA agencies, includes representatives of other federal agencies including HEW, HUD, BLM and Commerce and, in addition has members from the state's Governor's Office, Economic Development Department, Planning Department, Forestry Department, Education Department, and Water Resources Board.

The Oregon rural development effort is resulting in improved communication, liaison, cooperation, and coordination among the many concerned agencies. Evolving are concerted efforts to resolve problems with a minimum of duplication.

The effort has and is providing a method of tying together the agencies at the state level. The same development has occurred between field personnel in each of our counties and communities.

It is our goal to provide through this delivery system technical and educational services to the people of the state on a coordinated basis; the end result being a more sophisticated, comprehensive program to solve the economic, social and physical problems in our rural areas.

PENNSYLVANIA

A rural development tour of Southeastern Pennsylvania was conducted September 26-27, 1973 by the Pennsylvania Rural Development Committee. The theme was "Planning for Tomorrow." The tour spotlighted the exodus of people from the cities and the effect this has on the counties as far as competition for available land is concerned.

The Committee is making a real effort to better coordinate its activities with those of other areas. This year, the list of people receiving minutes of RD meetings has been expanded to include all the RD committees in the state and other interested groups. Through this effort, the State Committee has been able to better communicate with local committees. The State RD Committee holds meetings each year at local community locations in order to get a better idea of local problems. Members of the Federal Regional Council are also invited to attend state meetings for the purpose of coordinating their activities at the regional level.

The Committee expanded its membership to include members from State agencies and the private sector. The committee membership was increased to 20 members.

PUERTO RICO

Raising the standards of living of the rural population to the level of urban people is the main goal of Committee program of work.

The Committee senses urgency in the organization of cooperatives as a support for rural development.

The Committee recognizes that an essential requisite for rural development is more research on how farm and rural people can best use economic, social and other services.

The Committee is conscious that in rural development the participation of the local people is the main target.

The Committee is interested and willing to cooperate with the Planning Board Committee in its development plans.

The Committee expresses preoccupation about the regional rural development program. The Committee will give support to those local projects which the local committees consider are most important and beneficial to their communities.

The State Committee designated a tutor system in which at least two of their members could visit and meet with regional committees and make followup of projects.

The Committee is aware of the convenience of the involvement and participation of the city mayors and members of the legislature in local committee activities so as to legitimize and give support to program activities.

RHODE ISLAND

The Rhode Island Community Development Committee took as its major focus in FY 74 improving understanding and cooperation among both member agencies and related nonmenber agencies, and utilizing these strengthened linkages. The fruits of these efforts were demonstrated in the following ways:

1. Assisting the Statewide Planning Program in planning a public information program describing their land use plan.
2. The cooperative efforts of two member state agencies in developing a program to teach English to Puerto Rican migrant farm workers.
3. Cooperation between a state and federal agency to greatly increase service to rural families seeking housing loans and rural communities needing improved public services.
4. Increased understanding by member agencies of a variety of topics, such as federal project review procedures, new opportunities for economic development arising in the state, and programs for controlling pests harmful to forest resources.
5. Support of the Title V and RC&D projects.

During the coming year, the Committee plans to review its membership structure, seeking closer ties to the Governor's office, his office on manpower development, and the state's new department of economic development. The Committee hopes also to improve its relationship with the state legislature. Finally, it is beginning to devise ways for helping communities identify their needs and then make the communities aware of the resource available to help meet the needs.

SOUTH CAROLINA

One of the major problems affecting the orderly development of rural areas in South Carolina has been the requirement that practically every effort be undertaken by a group of individuals or a community, requiring the establishment of a special service district. To help alleviate this problem and to eliminate the various conflicts which so frequently result when any one county or area has a number of special service districts, the Committee requested special assistance from the South Carolina State Legislature. The Legislature established the "Local Government Study Committee." This Committee has the responsibility of recommending to the Legislature the implementation of the constitutional amendment passed by the 1972 general election, which makes provisions for full home rule by a designated county governmental unit. The legislative "Local Government Study Committee" has presented its proposal to the Legislature and this proposal is now under consideration.

During FY 75, the State RD Committee will continue to concentrate its efforts to bring the programs of the Department of Agriculture and other state and federal agencies to the people of the rural areas of South Carolina. A concerted effort will be continued to coordinate the efforts of state and federal agencies in rural areas to eliminate any possible duplication and to provide the maximum benefits to the residents of rural areas.

SOUTH DAKOTA

The main achievement of the USDA Rural Development Committee is completion of staffing District Grass Roots USDA Rural Development Committees. These committees coincide with and work with State Planning Districts and provide an effective functional method for USDA expertise input into projects undertaken by the local communities and planning districts.

Information from the USDA district committees is funneled to the State Committee and to the respective involved agency. The agency then can take direct action as applicable.

Thus, the State RD Committee's main function is to keep lines of communication open between USDA and state officials and to provide expertise, advice and help in appropriate areas through each respective USDA agency on the Committee.

TENNESSEE

The Tennessee State Rural Development Committee emphasized five areas during the year:

1. Improvement of communication and understanding of rural development concept.
2. Educational programs related to provisions of the Rural Development Act of 1972.
3. Strengthening of regional and county rural development committees.
4. Improvement of teamwork and cooperation between agencies concerned with RD.
5. Sharing of information available on local, state and national levels essential to development.

The slide-tape presentation, "An Eye On The Future," depicting actual development activities of the Morgan County Resource Development Committee, has been utilized extensively throughout the state to develop a favorable attitude and understanding of the rural development concept.

M. Gist Welling, secretary of the Committee, served on the Institute of Agriculture Rural Development Task Force to determine "Rural Development Research Needs in Tennessee."

Increased interest and involvement of state USDA agencies in development has resulted from the nine district meetings held last year where Paul Koger, vice chairman of the State Committee and Mr. Welling explained the provisions of the Rural Development Act of 1972 to approximately 1,100 key leaders in the state.

Information on the following topics was made available to committee members and chairmen of county rural development committees:

1. Fact Sheet--Rural Development Act 1972.
2. Revenue Sharing Fact Sheet.
3. Tennessee Development District Program.
4. Summary of Regulations for Implementing Portions of the Rural Development Act of 1972.
5. Summary of Pending Land Use Legislation.

The State Committee wholeheartedly supports the Title V Project approved by the Rural Development Advisory Council for a pilot program in Clay, Overton, Picket, Claiborne and Hancock Counties.

TEXAS

The State USDA Rural Development Committee encouraged the 252 county USDA committees to work with local groups in initiating worthy projects that caused group decisions to be made. Some 232 projects were initiated and carried out during this fiscal year.

During 1974, a meeting was initiated by the State Committee to meet with the Governor to discuss ways the Committee and the Governor's Office could mutually support ongoing programs. As a result of this meeting, staff personnel from the Governor's Office and the State Committee began exploring ways transportation facilities for the 50 counties of South Texas could be improved. As a result of the efforts in finding solutions to this problem, a local citizens group was formed to initiate a study. The study is now complete and awaiting action for funding a recommended action program.

The Committee's goals and emphasis for the future are to mutually support ongoing programs of the various agencies and encourage county committees to support local citizen groups with technical information needed for rural development.

UTAH

The Utah State Rural Development Committee actively supported the cause of agriculture by presenting the facts on agriculture's role as a promoter of good environment and as the nation's food supplier. The causes of escalating food prices were put in proper perspective on many occasions by use of mass media, slide presentations and public speeches by Committee members.

Excellent teamwork has helped generate a range management and improvement program which will greatly enhance the carrying capacity of Utah's ranges, improve wildlife habitat and contribute to the beauty of the landscape.

Assistance on the sponsorship of the Utah Community Progress program has helped promote good working relationships between numerous state, federal, and private agencies and institutions. Communities have benefited and will benefit by having well thought out guidelines to assist in their community development efforts. Substantial recognition awards will stimulate greater development.

It is anticipated that programs for the coming year will be a continuation of this year's efforts in environmental improvement, land use planning, increased food production and community progress. However, more effort will likely be spent on working with areas that are feeling the impact of the mushrooming development of energy resources. The committee will continue to espouse the cause of agriculture.

VERMONT

Main accomplishments in FY 74 included: providing ad hoc committees to investigate and report on specific problem areas: flood of July 1973, septic sludge disposal in rural areas, comprehensive health planning, agricultural waste disposal, arts and crafts marketing (including farmers markets), and rural manpower services. The Vermont Rural Development Committee provides a discussion period at each meeting to build communication and understanding of the several federal-state programs which assist meeting problems. In addition to the above-mentioned ad hoc committee assignments, the following were discussed in depth: bio-gas research, energy shortages, state-regional-local land use planning, community facilities, property taxation, resource conservation and development, business and industry loans, and the on-site assistance programs for septic systems (pilot system-interagency-Orange and Windsor counties).

During the coming year, the Committee plans to build more emphasis in the following areas: interagency communications (including Federal Regional Council), flood plain delineation and regulations at local level; assist in implementing measures in the two RC&D projects; implement assistance to small and part-time farmers in marketing; assist the agencies and organizations concerned in rural health delivery services; investigate and assist in implementing rural housing needs; and continue natural resource technical teams.

VIRGINIA

The State Rural Development Committee works to initiate cooperation between agencies which can mutually benefit one another. Not only does the Committee strive to foster an attitude of mutual cooperation and encourage "working together" relationships, but it promotes these attitudes by offering various workshops during the year. Another goal of the State Committee is to coordinate and relate resources of agencies of the federal government (USDA) with agencies at the state level. The efforts of the State Committee are then coordinated and disseminated to the proper programs within the state by the Virginia Resources Council. This structure provides for effective communication of information which is important and often vital to the success of local-level programs and agencies. Through the cooperative efforts initiated with the Council, the State Committee has been successful in its delivery of manpower programs to selected rural communities.

VIRGIN ISLANDS

It is the consensus of the VIRD Committee that while its efforts are sincere in reviewing the project plans and proposals of the agencies responsible for carrying out RC&D projects and for which funds have been provided, the VIRD Committee, collectively has not yet been able to achieve any direct results which might be attributed to the Committee as a whole.

WASHINGTON

In FY 74, the RD Committee focused efforts in achieving more effective land use planning in the State of Washington. Two objectives were established: (1) to improve the quality of rural environment through an effort at public education that emphasizes the need for land use planning to get better land use decisions made where they count (at the local level) and (2) to improve the quality of land use planning and regulation by developing an accelerated, coordinated program of technical assistance (federal, state, county and local).

Agency members carried out their land use planning commitments and responsibilities in at least three ways: (1) by increasing citizen and public official awareness and participation in the land use planning process, (2) by providing facts and technical assistance to public officials and citizens working on land use problems and (3) by assisting citizen groups to organize themselves effectively to influence land use decisions.

The State RD Committee established a land use planning design committee composed of members of selected agencies represented on the State RD Committee. A series of regional and county land use planning meetings were held throughout the state with county commissioners, county and regional planners and members of state middle management and county RD committees. Key land use problems and issues were identified by the participants, and personnel responded as to availability of resources, commitments and constraints. Rural Development Committee efforts have resulted in improved cooperation and integration of efforts among federal, state, regional, and local governments.

WEST VIRGINIA

West Virginia Rural Development Council, "Mountaineers for Rural Progress" (MRP), composed of 24 federal and state agencies, 10 task committees and 53 county committees, was a responsive force for rural development. MRP created a positive and desirable influence on rural living in West Virginia.

In many respects, this was a year of maturity for MRP. Participating agencies and organizations lost their identity as MRP pursued a support and action role in developing solutions and alternatives to major state, regional and county problems.

The need to preserve the quality of the environment, to manage solid waste, to conserve the soil, to program land utilization, and to arouse public awareness of these needs were factors which contributed to the increased effectiveness of the MRP effort.

An important result of the interaction of the agencies comprising the MRP membership was the positive trend of agencies in initiating complementary programs in the RD effort.

MRP committee's support of, and involvement with, county and regional planning commissions was encouraged by the state council, and successes in development programs indicated a substantial increased effort was achieved.

The MRP organization with its membership agencies is becoming more knowledgeable of and experienced in rural development through the cooperative approach and this factor should be reflected by the comprehensiveness and quality of future program successes.

WISCONSIN

Indepth involvement of federal and state agencies and statewide citizen organizations in RD programming was the significant achievement in FY 74. The following accomplishments resulted:

1. Program priorities have been set for the State Council and county rural development councils.
2. Specific suggestions for the involvement of federal, state and local agencies on a county level in program implementation have been prepared.
3. Training was carried out for all county committees resulting in improved two-way communications.
4. Special emphasis was placed on the involvement of youth, women and minorities in RD activities.
5. The State Legislature was involved directly in state RD activity and is represented on the State Rural Development Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee of the State Rural Development Council has established goals for FY 75:

1. Improvement of state and federal agency support of County RD committees and state organization RD programs.
2. Emphasis on securing increased Wisconsin Rural Development Council support from the administrative branch of state government.
3. A special effort will be made to improve communications between county RD committees and the State Council.
4. The State RD Council has pledged its support of a "balanced growth" program initiated by state government.

WYOMING

The highlight of FY 74 for all the agriculturally-related agencies in Wyoming was the visit by Assistant Secretary Will Erwin and REA Administrator David Hamil during the last part of August 1973. The two Washington officials were very capably hosted by the Extension Service and REA for a tour of the Powder River Basin area of Eastern Wyoming. A luncheon, press conference, and

State RD Committee meeting were held in Casper on August 27 in honor of the two Washington officials.

The Wyoming USDA Rural Development Committee has functioned as (1) a forum for discussion of rural problems, and (2) as a coordinating body bringing together the many diverse interests and resources available for assistance in solving rural problems.

The problems of the Star Valley area and the Swiss Cheese Company, which were of primary concern to the Committee in the last few years, have been successfully solved.

Further statewide projects discussed and/or acted upon include:

1. Multiple use of water among agriculture, municipal and industry uses.
2. Coordinating summer employment programs with the State Department of Manpower Development.
3. We have offered assistance to the Forest Service for sanitation development.
4. Land use planning and zoning.
5. Industrial development in the agribusiness sector.
6. Environmental concerns affecting agricultural producers and processors.
7. Implementation of the 1972 Rural Development Act.
8. Public education activities directing action to agricultural environmental concerns.
9. Keeping posted on the development of the multiple sheep feeding project in the Wheatland area.
10. RC&D Projects
11. Acceptance by SBA of Committee's invitation to become a member of the State RD Committee.

LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITY
INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The funding and implementation of Title V, the research and education component of the Rural Development Act of 1972, generated much interest on the part of the Land-Grant Universities in expanding their contributions to rural development during FY 74. Title V raised the level of awareness for the needs and opportunities for university involvement. Each of the 50 Land-Grant Universities and Puerto Rico agreed to administer the Title V program for their state and their presidents each appointed a 12- to 15-person Rural Development Advisory Council which reviewed and approved state annual plans of work. Although the level of Title V funding was low -- ranging from $14,238 to $105,186 per state -- most projects will include assistance from Land-Grant University faculty in addition to the inputs from the State Cooperative Extension Services and the State Agricultural Experiment Stations.

To ensure that the program's objectives are being met to the best extent possible, each state's plan of work contains a section on proposed steps for evaluating the Title V program within the state. Also, four states are undertaking indepth documentation of the accomplishment of their Title V program. At the national level, Extension Service and Cooperative State Research Service staff will be analyzing the overall results of Title V efforts in a continuing evaluative process for the three-year period FY 74-FY 76.

The Land-Grant Universities recognize that people want to know, want to understand, want to have the best information possible for decison-making, and want to have a voice in the decisions of their community. The Land-Grant Universities are committed to the principle of generating knowledge and understanding through research and extending it through extension systems so that people are better able to take advantage of their existing opportunities. This is accomplished through the use of their own resources and through assistance from federal and state agencies.

Through educational assistance, it is hoped that rural residents will develop their self confidence to the point that they feel and are equipped to compete in a complex society and to deal with complex community issues -- many of them multi-million dollar decisions.

There is general commonality in the perceived role of the Land-Grant institutions in rural development. These colleges and universities help rural citizens to:

-- Identify, articulate and document needs and problems, and to assign priorities to these problems and needs.
-- Identify, articulate, document and array alternatives for solving problems or meeting needs.
-- Select between alternatives.
-- Implement the solution(s) selected.
-- Evaluate progress and re-initiate the process.

The foregoing are accomplished by:

- -- Demonstrating, fostering, legitimizing and facilitating effective democratic leadership in the rural community.
- -- Assisting groups to organize to work effectively to solve their community problems.
- -- Providing information, research findings and educational assistance to groups and officials in identifying, analyzing and assigning priorities to the problems and needs perceived by the citizens of the community, and to solving these problems, consistent with requests for such assistance by community leaders, local citizens and elected officials.

Highlights and Examples

Following are highlights and examples of Land-Grant University efforts in rural development beyond those of the Cooperative Extension Services and Agricultural Experiment Stations which are reported elsewhere in this publication.

The president of the Louisiana State University system has pledged the total resources of the system to the state RD effort. As a result, Extension personnel have asked for and received complete cooperation and help from many departments and divisions of the University in working on problems identified by citizen action groups.

Personnel from the LSU College of Business Administration, Division of Continuing Education, College of Education, Water Resources Institute, School of Environmental Design, Law School, Department of Agricultural Economics and Department of Sociology have attended citizen action group meetings to present information and act as resource people for the groups.

Personnel from the Department of Agricultural Economics and the Department of Rural Sociology are in constant contact with Extension personnel in an attempt to coordinate research efforts to better support Extension personnel field work in Louisiana.

Clemson University's information and technical assistance for RD projects in South Carolina is best described by the following examples:

Recreation planning services were provided to rural communities and towns by the Department of Recreation and Parks Administration through student projects and consultation with Extension Service specialists in community development and with local planners.

The College of Architecture provided assistance in planning renewal and revitalization projects for small towns. These services were also provided through assignment of such projects to advanced students in the Architecture curricula.

Clemson's Colleges of Engineering, Liberal Arts, Industrial Management and Textile Science, and Architecture all cooperated with the College of Agricultural Sciences in a university-wide housing committee which plans and supports development of resource information, education and training materials, research and a housing education program.

The Extension function at Utah State University received strong support from University administration during FY 74. An assistant or associate dean for Extension has been appointed in each of the eight academic colleges. As a result, Extension personnel enjoy support from their non-Extension colleagues and many staff members without Extension appointments make significant contributions to the outreach programs of the University.

A four-year quality of rural life program funded by a $600,000 grant from the Kellogg Foundation is one example. This is an integrated combination of project areas directed toward self-generating rural community programs. Purpose is to develop employment opportunities, improve community services, establish broader educational opportunities, and improve the social and physical environment in communities throughout the Mountain States. Projects and programs will be developed for rural communities in the following six areas: environmental improvement, economic development, education, governmental services, social and cultural enrichments, and health services. In each of these program areas the aim is to enhance the type of rural society capable of continuous and self-generating renewal.

Another Utah effort was a three-year Environment and Man Program funded by a $600,000 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation and completed in December, 1973. However, several program thrusts will continue. These include: (1) Land use planning - identification of critical areas, (2) Resource inventory through the USU Merrill Library with sub-units in each of the seven areas of the state, (3) Energy resource feasibility studies, (4) Land use planning assistance through the use of computers and (5) College of Business - Management Institute.

At the University of Illinois, the Department of Recreation and Park Administration provided information and technical assistance to many nonmetropolitan communities through its divisions of Outdoor Recreation, Personnel, Community Recreation and Therapeutic Recreation. Assistance was in the form of educational materials, consulting, studies and surveys, and training programs. Seminars and workshops brought many nonmetropolitan leaders to the campus for training.

The Department of Urban Planning, College of Fine and Applied Arts, advised many Illinois towns and rural county boards on planning and zoning matters in addition to Cooperative Extension activities. Nonmetropolitan planners, planning commission members and other rural community leaders participated in Department workshops and conferences.

The Institute of Local Government and Public Affairs on the Illinois campus continued to be actively involved with the State of Illinois in problems of modernizing local government in both rural and urban counties. And the Rural Education Development Laboratory (REDL) in the College of Education continued active in creating and training citizen advisory councils for rural schools. Other units in the College of Education are doing research and consulting in the field of rural education.

Also, the Center for Advanced Computation and the Department of Agricultural Economics are developing a computer system for the collection, analysis, retrieval and dissemination of data for use by Extension staff, researchers, planners and other community leaders in RD programs throughout the state.

At the Ohio State University, the School of Landscape Architecture was especially cooperative in working with area and county Extension agents in meeting landscape architecture needs in several communities. Proposals were submitted by the communities involved to the school's faculty, who used the approved proposals as class or individual projects.

The Ohio State School of Administrative Sciences again provided valuable assistance in the area of local finance and taxation during FY 74. Besides assisting with local meetings, special assistance was given in preparing materials relating to the land taxation issue voted on in the general election in November.

The College of Engineering, Department of City and Regional Planning, provided assistance in regional planning meetings conducted by Extension. Similar assistance was provided by personnel from the Academy for Contemporary Problems, a special unit cooperatively sponsored by the University and Battelle Memorial Research Institute.

The Division of Engineering, Oklahoma State University, has recently created a center for local government technology which is extending information to rural communities. This effort is relatively new. Currently, it has projects underway in solid waste management and in costing of city services. Fifteen other projects are scheduled to get underway within the next year.

At Iowa State University, the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development (CARD) continued and expanded research relating to many aspects of economic development, health, housing, recreation, etc., during FY 74. CARD staff members also participated in RD training efforts benefiting both Extension staff members and other professionals, such as regional planners. Also, the Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS) maintained its assistance inputs. Fieldmen continued to call on and counsel with Iowa industries during this reporting period.

Teaching and research staff members from the Department of Leisure Services in the College of Education, the Department of Sociology and the Department of Forestry in the College of Agriculture continued to give assistance to schools, park and recreation boards, county boards of conservation and other groups serving recreational needs. A pilot training effort in conjunction with local government specialists was conducted in Atlantic.

Also, the Iowa State Extension Courses and Conferences division of University Extension continued work with numerous departments, offering seminars, workshops and conferences relevant to several aspects of rural development.

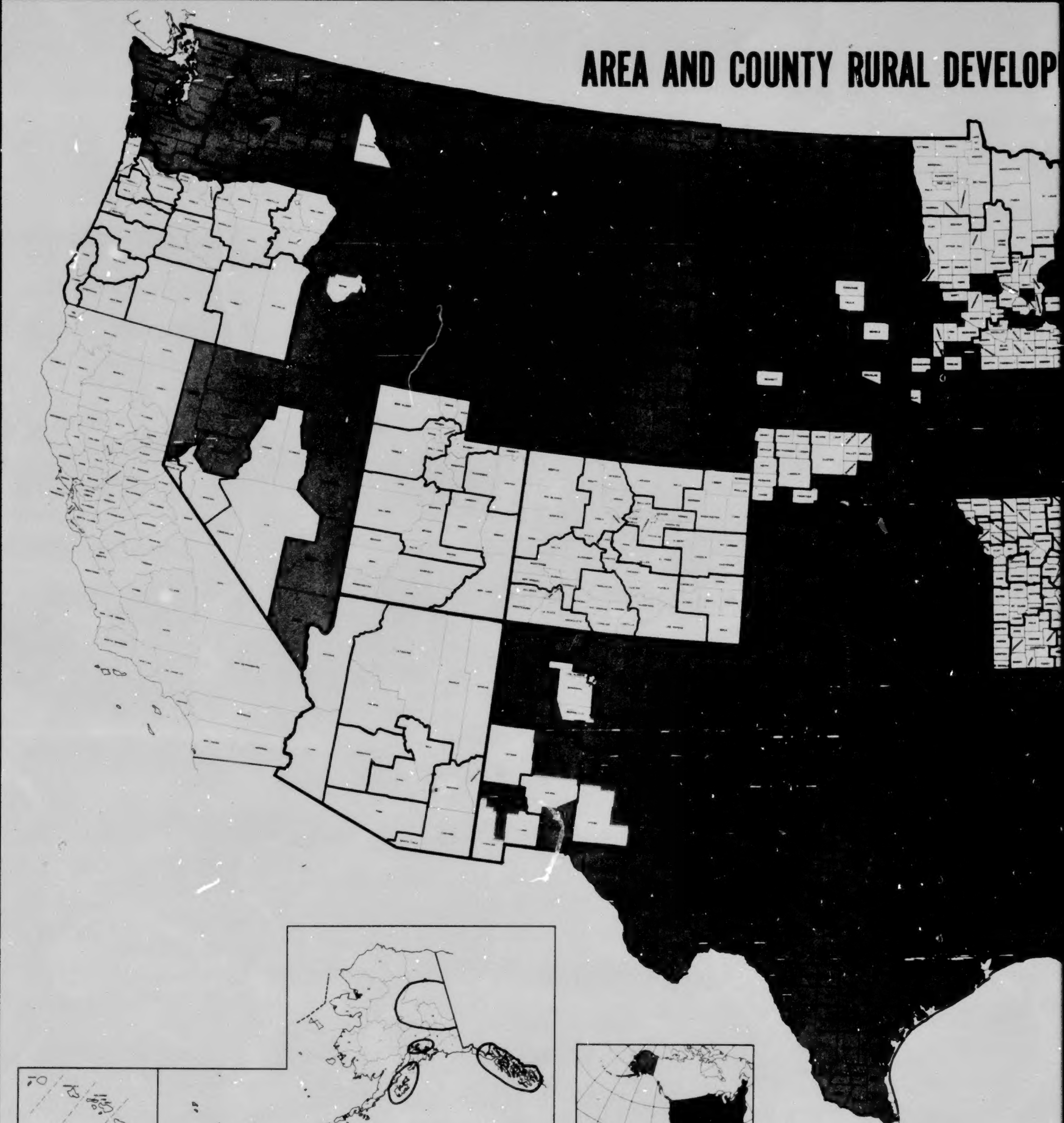
Business and industry and community services were predominant among the courses offered by non-Cooperative Extension Service staff.

Business and Industry related courses included: Finance and Accounting for Non-Financial Managers; Profit Planning for Small Companies; Improving Leadership and Human Skills; Personnel Administration, Testing and the Law; and Production and Inventory Control. Community Services related courses included: Improving Supervisory Skills in Health Care; State Fire School (50th annual meeting for the oldest fire school in the nation); Public Utilities Valuation and the Rate-Making Process; 12th Annual Water Resources Design Conference; and School Food Service Management Short Course.

Two additional Iowa State courses were relevant to rural development, the Urban Planning Conference sponsored by the Department of Landscape Architecture and co-sponsored by the Iowa-Nebraska Chapter AIP, HUD, and the Office for Planning and Programming, State of Iowa and "The Humanities Symposium on Rural Life," which included papers on topics such as "The Ethics and Esthetics of Farming: The Southern Agrarian View," "The Vision of Rural Life in German Heimatliterature," and "The Reform of Agriculture: Why Only the Humanities Can Save Rural Ideals."

Another interesting Continuing Education program was that provided through PENNTAP (Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program) at Pennsylvania State University. This program was administered through Continuing Education. It provides for a transfer of "technical data and expertise from research and libraries to business and industry, municipalities, health organizations, government agencies, community organizations and individual entrepreneurs in the Commonwealth." Increasingly, Extension is calling on PENNTAP for assistance.

AREA AND COUNTY RURAL DEVELOP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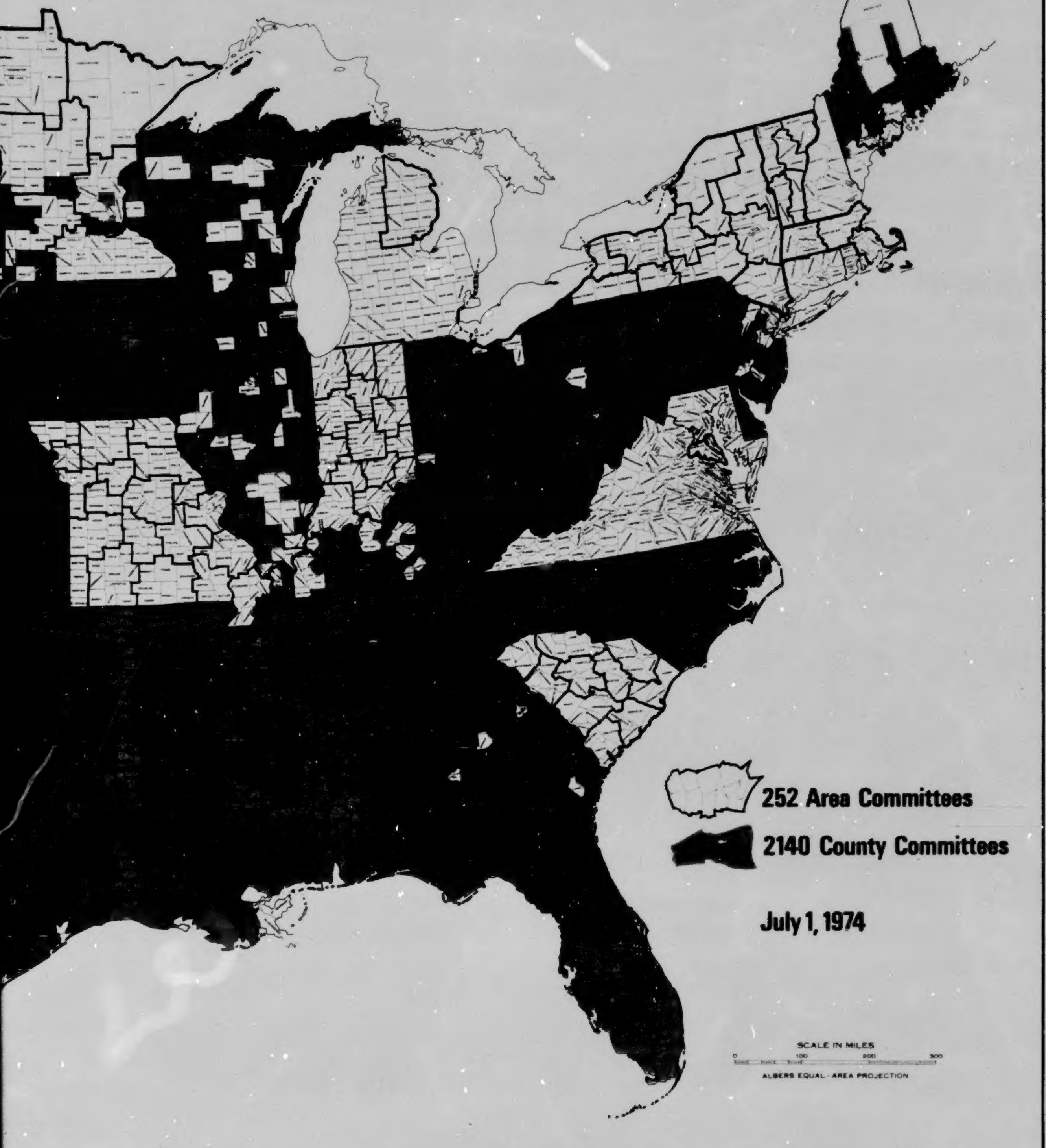
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES


252 Area Committees
2140 County Committees
July 1, 1974
SCALE IN MILES
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100
200
300
ALBERS EQUAL - AREA PROJECTION

PROGRAM THRUSTS

ORGANIZATION AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

One of the critical areas of program activity in rural development is local and multi-jurisdictional leadership development. An overall lack of technical expertise in rural areas makes it difficult for these areas to compete with urban areas for limited developmental resources.

Much of the Department's efforts during the past year have concentrated on the stimulation of local leadership and the creation of more effective local and multi-jursidictional organizations for RD on a nationwide basis. In addition, the personnel of the Department and other federal agencies have worked to provide these leaders and their organizations with the technical expertise they so badly need.

Activity is taking place at all levels, from the local to the federal. At the local level, representatives from each of the USDA agencies working in RD have daily contact with local leaders and volunteers. It is this technical and project assistance that results in projects which effect the changes necessary for rural development. At the multi-county level, Departmental personnel work with multi-county development districts on activities affecting the process of rural development. At the state level, USDA sponsors RD committees. Working in concert with the policy guidance received from the National Rural Development Committee, the state committees work to provide RD technical assistance and educational activities within each state.

The Department is now actively participating in the activities of the Federal Regional Councils through full membership on each of the 10 Councils. Support for the Secretary's representative on these Councils is provided by USDA agencies in Washington, D.C., and also at the state level. A feature of the activities of the Federal Councils is the involvement of other federal agencies in RD activities and projects. At the national level, USDA is working to implement the RD coordination responsibilities assigned to the Secretary of Agriculture. Activities include resolution of policy and procedural issues by the Under Secretaries Working Group, the Assistant Secretaries Working Group and the National Rural Development Committee. In addition, USDA has stimulated a closer working relationship among those programs which can benefit rural America.

Statistical Summary

In terms of measurable activity in the program thrust area of organization and leadership development, the levels of effort appear to be approximately the same for both FY 73 and FY 74. There is a slight increase in the category of man-years expended; surveys and feasibility studies; workshops, conferences and meetings assisted; and total number of publications distributed. On the other hand, there is a slight decrease in the number of projects assisted; workshops, conferences and meetings convened and conducted; and different publications prepared.

Although not reflected in the statistical information provided as a part of this report, it is suggested that the implementation of the Rural Development Act of 1972 did provide some of the funding necessary for development of actual projects in rural areas which could not have taken place in the prior fiscal year. Because of the availability of this funding source, it is possible that the activities of USDA personnel in organization and leadership development were more effective and resulted in greater project activity at the local level.

Highlights and Examples

The Utah RD Committee worked with the State Department of Community Affairs to develop a major new program, the Utah Community Progress program. Some 43 communities are signed up to participate, and more will join later. The major objective is to develop a statewide program of coordinated action among community development groups.

In North Carolina, the RD Committee is working closely with the new Center for Rural Resource Development at the North Carolina State University. The Committee will recommend important problem areas the Center might study and will help disseminate the Center's findings to state and local leaders.

The Louisiana RD Committee is sponsoring a statewide "Leadership and Problem Identification Survey" that is being conducted by parish personnel assisted by Extension Service specialists. The object is to help develop structures for more effective citizen participation in community development.

Through the Nevada RD Committee's iniative, all agriculture-related groups in the state have joined together to form the Nevada Agricultural Image Council. Groundwork for establishment of the Council included Committee-sponsored surveys of housewives, gradeschool children, and businessmen, to determine their understanding of the role of agriculture in the state.

As a result of a Tennessee RD Committee recommendation, county committees in the state have added judges and mayors to their membership. This action has strengthened the organization of the committees and enhanced local RD efforts at the county and local level.

In New York, the Southern Tier West Regional Community Development Committee sponsored a two-day tour. Over 70 mayors, other local officials, community leaders and development agency personnel participated in this effort to give the State Committee first-hand information on the region's development problems and needs.

The New Mexico RD Committee has met frequently with the seven district teams to explain the State Committee role and to further coordination between the state and district levels. The district teams have adopted goals and objectives similar to the Committee's, and better coordination in solving problems at the local level has resulted.

In Massachusetts, the RD Committee is developing education programs to help local people identify their community problems, develop alternative solutions, and measure the costs and benefits of each alternative.

The Wisconsin RD Committee initiated a statewide workshop for state and federal agency and citizen organization representatives that resulted in a propram priorities statement. The State Committee immediately followed up with a statewide meeting of county RD committees, and action is underway to implement the state priorities.

In Maryland, the RD Committee is cooperating with the Citizens Program for the Chesapeake Bay in their effort to work for preservation of the Bay as a viable natural resource. The State Committee has agreed to consider serving as a reaction panel to a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plan for the Bay.

Area RD committees in Vermont have worked with Extension specialists to involve older youth in conservation activities, summer sales operations for arts and crafts, community betterment and Bicentennial planning.

The Pennsylvania RD Committee conducted a two-day Rural Development Tour of Southeastern Pennsylvania to show concerned citizens the rural/urban balance that has resulted from sound planning. The tour, under the theme "Planning for Tomorrow," also spotlighted the exodus of city people and the effect this has had on competition for land, land prices and farm real estate taxes.

In South Carolina, the RD Committee helped the community of Cassatt, in Kershaw County, develop an application for a National RD Demonstration Area Project that could clearly demonstrate what could be accomplished when local people band together and work with USDA and other federal agencies and with state and substate agencies in a cooperative, well-planned effort.

The Illinois RD Committee is working with local leaders in Western Illinois to develop a regional RD workshop emphasizing successful projects in the area and how they were accomplished.

In Florida, the RD Committee conducted training meetings in each of the State's planning districts. At each conference, representatives from the State's Division of Planning, Department of Community Affairs, and Department of Commerce instructed the county participants on assistance available from the state agencies.

The West Virginia RD Committee is emphasizing vocational, technical and adult education. The Committee has provided resource support to the State Department of Education for programs designed to provide every West Virginian with the opportunity to prepare for a job that meets the individual's needs, interest and abilities.

In Alabama, where a county RD committee is active in each of the 67 counties, the emphasis has been on total resource development. County committee activities have ranged from educational programs on the need for rural land use planning to projects to inform woodland owners of best management and marketing practices.

The Montana RD Committee, as part of its efforts to gain widespread public support and understanding of rural development, held a "media day" to explain the Rural Development Act of 1972 to newspaper editors, T.V. station personnel and farm paper editors.

The Wyoming RD Committee has initiated a three-year community development project in the Big Horn Basin Area. The project, to be headed by Extension, aims to identify local community development interests, needs and leadership among lay people and to consider how economic, natural resources, institutional and social factors must all be recognized if balanced development is to result.

In Ohio, the RD Committee is giving overall direction to the Pilot Project for Community Development. As a result of work of the Project's subcommittee on industrial site development and other concerned groups, a 76-acre industrial park is about to be developed in the Cambridge trade area.

The Connecticut RD Committee has been working at establishing good communications with federal, state and regional agencies. To accomplish this, a series of seminars were held during which various agencies updated members on concerns and problems. In addition to working closely with the Governor's Committee on the Preservation of Agricultural Land, the Committee has taken steps to cement relations with EDA and has met with the director of one of the state's regional planning agencies to review the role of the Committee from a regional planner's viewpoint.

Some of Hawaii's islands are experiencing wrenching economic changes. For example, several large plantations have phased out their pineapple and sugar operations, freeing large tracts of land for other uses. The future use of the land could change the entire agricultural picture in the island state. Due to this transitional situation, Extension is expending more time and effort than ever before in organization and leadership development. Surveys of people's attitudes, future plans and training needs have been completed in Molokai and are planned for other areas. Some feasibility studies are completed and others underway. The State of Hawaii has appropriated approximately $16 million to help solve some of these transitional problems. The major role of Extension is fact finding, adapting results of research and helping local organizations to more effectively participate in decision making.

The Extension Service of Washington State University has been involved in developing "Alternatives for Washington." This is a dynamic statewide effort designed to involve as many people as possible in the policy-making process. Extension appointed a full-time project coordinator at the state level. County Extension agents provided local leadership for the "Alternatives" program by suggesting persons to serve on state and area discussion groups, writing news releases, organizing and conducting preconference orientations for each of the county delegates and assisting with the areawide conferences.

During FY 74, the Rural Development Service conducted three sessions of the National Rural Development Leaders School. Participants for the first school, held in August 1973 at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, came from towns across the nation; those at the second school, held in March 1974, came from the Southern states; and those at the June 1974 school, held at the University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana, came from the Midwestern states. In total, over 300 volunteer participants from rural America participated in the schools, which are conducted for six days and include a series of program lectures and group case-study exercises. State RD Committees, state Extension, and other organizations and groups have played an important role in the planning and operation of the National Rural Development Leaders Schools, which are helping a wide cross-section of the leadership of rural America discover how to be more effective in improving the quality of life in their areas.

The National Rural Development Committee sponsored a series of four regional RD conferences to bring together State RD Committees, Federal Regional Council representatives, and representatives of state government. The participants discussed roles and working relationships in rural development with a view toward strengthening the effectiveness of State RD Committees. Over 450 people attended the two-day sessions, held in Philadelphia, Memphis, St. Louis, and Las Vegas.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

During FY 74, USDA agencies continued to provide extensive comprehensive planning assistance to state governments, multi-county organizations and local development groups. Comprehensive planning encompasses a wide range of planning activities, but major effort was related to land use planning and related zoning regulations.

Statistical Summary

In FY 74, USDA assistance totaled 769 man-years, an increase of 19 percent over FY 73. This assistance was provided through more than 30,000 projects assisted and nearly 18,000 surveys and feasibility studies. The Department increased its assistance in comprehensive planning in all categories shown in Table 1.

Highlights and Examples

USDA assistance is provided through state RD committees and subcommittees, but a large share of the effort is provided by field workers who assist multi-county or local planning groups or citizens.

USDA field personnel, as members or advisors to state or local bodies, have helped to prepare standards and specifications for land use development and regulations to implement plans. They have provided planning data with aerial photographs, topographic maps, land use studies, soil surveys and data on water quality.

In every state there are examples of accomplishments that have enhanced the social and economic development of rural areas. Some of these examples follow.

Research on land use and rural change in New York provided information for the state's 100 developing agricultural districts. Farmers have an opportunity to avoid some of the pressures that would force them out of business. They may apply for exemption from taxation on the values of their land in excess of its value for farming. New York Experiment Station and USDA personnel prepared modification of administrative regulations and procedures to encourage the maintenance of agriculture, and an orderly mechanism for planning for and preserving attractive open space.

The State Secretary of Agriculture appointed several members of the Maryland Rural Affairs Council to the Committee to Preserve Agricultural Land, which is preparing a long range plan and recommendations. The MRAC members serve as consultants to a CPAL subcommittee studying means of changing the federal estate tax laws so that farmers' heirs will be less likely to be forced to sell the land for other uses when unable to pay estate taxes. The Council held a series of open meetings throughout the state to present alternatives for preserving agricultural land to concerned citizens.

The land use subcommittee of the Ohio State RD Committee summarized information on activities in other states to assist the legislature to develop legislation on taxation of agricultural land.

The Rhode Island State Committee assisted the statewide planning program to conduct public discussion of a new land use plan. An information program was developed by the Committee and presented to a variety of groups. The result was increased awareness and understanding of the proposed statewide plan among town officials and private citizens. Since all planning is done at state or town government level, implementation of the plan is expected soon.

Research at the Georgia Station has been used to assist the Northeast Georgia Planning and Development District in dealing with such problems as the changing tax base, population change and the stimulation of economic activity. Increased industrialization supported by the research findings greatly reduced underemployment. Further research and further implementation of the findings can be expected to increase employment, especially among the rural nonfarm people, where the greatest maladjustments existed.

In the 11-county panhandle area of Nebraska, county RD committees have been actively helping to develop county zoning plans that will fit into an overall area plan. Land use inventory maps have been prepared for the Resource Development and Planning Council. County plans are in various stages of development, ranging from a completed comprehensive land use plan and zoning regulations to actions to form a county planning commission.

Two agencies of the Virginia RD Committee have assigned staff to work with selected planning districts. The State Committee continues to support substate planning districts with technical information and project development in nonmetropolitan areas. SCS works with Virginia's 22 planning district commissions and local county planning groups to provide soils and other resource data. The staff has helped with site selection for sanitary landfills, water impoundments and building sites. This working relationship has meant cooperation in: (1) sharing annual work programs; (2) providing technical information relating to specific projects; and (3) involving RD agency staff on planning district project committees.

The Iowa State RD Committee appointed a Land Use Task Force. Nine individuals representing state government, USDA and the university prepared papers which dealt with considerations in land use planning decisions. The committee distributed 15,000 copies to legislators, media, federal and state agency personnel, local government officials, members of regional, county and city planning commissions and state and local community leaders. This publication will assist decision-makers as land use legislation is debated and planning commissions undertake the implementation of land use policy.

The Kent County, Delaware Levy Court has set up a special building review committee which includes the County Soil Conservationist and a member of the USDA Resource Development Committee. Applications for zoning changes or building permits must be processed through and approved by this advisory group. Such a practice was needed because building permits were being approved on land with poor drainage on which septic systems functioned poorly and basements leaked.

The Hernando County, Florida, USDA Council has been educating local officials and citizens in the importance of utilizing soils information in county planning and zoning efforts. The county council manned a county booth at the Florida State Fair, discussing the 20 major soil types in the county. Educational information described the best use and limitations of each soil type. A synchronized audio tape and slide show gave related information and pictorial evidence of soils limitations. After the fair, the audio-visual show was presented at the county fair. This was a popular spot, especially for county officials, and as a result soils information is being incorporated in county planning programs.

County RD panels in North Carolina have conducted programs to help state and local governments, development groups and citizens to understand the importance and processes of land use planning. They have focused information on soils, spatial distribution problems and alternative methods of guiding land use and stimulating orderly community growth. The groups provided assistance to local planning boards and local governments on 105 land use planning projects. Two publications, "North Carolina Land Use Data," and "The Land Use Packet," have been widely distributed to groups, agencies and individuals.

The Angeles National Forest has completed a cooperative agreement with the Southern California Association of Governments, a planning and advisory agency for the counties and municipalities of Southern California. The agreement provides for forestry and wildland management planning assistance to be furnished to SCAG by the Forest Service. One Angeles National Forest staff member works with the SCAG on a full-time basis.

In Kansas, a four-session short course for members of the Liberal-Seward County Metropolitan Area Planning Commission was organized and coordinated by Extension community resource development specialists. Planning commissioners, city councilmen, city staff and interested community leaders attended. Liberal-Seward, which has had an active and effective planning commission since the early 1960's, is updating the 1967 comprehensive community plan, with housing and airport plans completed.

In many instances, REA borrowers provide technical and informational assistance for planning. There are 214 REA borrowers with representation on 394 multi-county planning organizations. When requested, REA field personnel provide information on planning of electric and telephone service to planning groups.

The leasing of lignite coal in a nine-county area of Southwestern North Dakota led to a study of land use. The State RD Committee aided in the study that presents four alternatives for development. The recommended action is for orderly growth of the coal mine industry that adequately considers environmental conditions. Leaders of two RC&D projects have assisted in developing data.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Title I of the Rural Development Act of 1972 has provided financing for a wide variety of needed community facilities in rural America. The capability of a community to provide these services and facilities is contingent not only on financing, but, more importantly perhaps, on the amount of organization and leadership development accomplished. In nearly every state, Extension and the Farmers Home Administration cited efforts they are advancing to provide information and technical assistance so the optimum use of credit from the Rural Development Act might be achieved by communities needing specific community services.

In addition to water and waste disposal, communities are now taking advantage of funding for such facilities as fire stations, community buildings, schools, emergency medical centers and municipally-instigated industrial parks. FmHA county supervisors and district directors, Extension agents and other USDA personnel are working with planning agencies, city and county officials, community groups and non-USDA agencies to assist and inform them of the opportunities to plan and carry out many community projects which have been needed, but not available for many years.

Securing community services and facilities is the result of many years of planning and working by local groups and organizations. Extension has assisted by: (1) providing the vehicle -- local groups -- that can identify the need for various services and facilities, (2) helping determine the need of identifying the problems and the severity of the problems with reference to services and facilities, (3) pinpointing and identifying sources of assistance that can help provide the necessary services and facilities and (4) working with the local leadership and such organizations as planning and development districts in developing the application and getting it ready for approval.

The reduced reliance on federal grants has required reorientation of development programs at the county and district levels. Recognizing this, FmHA and Extension staffs have tried to help local leaders look at alternative sources of funds for their services and facilities. These agencies have played a vital role in helping develop an understanding of the General Revenue Sharing Act.

Highlights and Achievements

In Florida, letters were written to all governing bodies in counties and towns throughout the state informing them of community facilities programs available through FmHA.

New York FmHA has held special meetings and workshops in cooperation with the state Conference of Mayors where community leaders were briefed in the initiation of projects. New Mexico, Utah, Oklahoma and Puerto Rico held similar meetings.

Vermont FmHA keeps in continuous contact with the State Health Department, with pollution control agencies, and with consulting engineers to find ways to assist the maximum number of rural communities with the limited resources that are aviilable.

South Dakota FmHA sees problems of being able to finance many community facilities other than water and waste disposal due to the lack of revenue that can be pledged to support a bond issue.

The opportunities for securing needed community facilities not heretofore available to rural areas, were highly appreciated by local leaders. But because of the relative urgency for basic water and waste disposal, particularly by those communities not now enjoying them, interest for these facilities continued high.

WATER -- Providing safe and dependable water supplies to rural communities was consistently a strong effort of FmHA and Extension throughout the various states. Generally, it involved help in assessing the magnitude of the problem, supplying information regarding alternative solutions, feasibility studies, organization assistance, methods of financing, education regarding user responsibilities and the training of administrative and maintenance personnel.

The Fourth Annual Consulting Engineers Workshop was held in Illinois in December, 1973. The nearly 50 firms represented have shown an active interest in utility construction in rural communities.

Kansas FmHA reports that countywide water systems are becoming more popular. This is also true in some other states. Informational meetings relate the advantage of countywide systems and lead to public acceptance.

SEWER -- Many rural communities do not have sewer facilities or find their facilities old or inadequate. During FY 74, Extension and FmHA provided assistance to counties considering sewer projects. Local community leaders and developers were acquainted with the advantages and disadvantages of the several types of community sewage disposal units. Leaders were also informed as to financial assistance programs available and requirements for assistance.

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL -- Providing facilities for solid waste disposal has been an area of universal concern related to pollution abatement. Interest has been stimulated also because of the recent passage of state laws prohibiting burning and open dumps and otherwise governing the disposal of waste.

As with water facilities, assistance rendered in this area has involved help in assessing the magnitude of the problem, providing information regarding alternative solutions, feasibility studies, organizational assistance, methods of financing, user responsibilities, and the training of administrative and operating personnel. In addition, however, it has included help in establishing recycling centers, in locating satisfactory sites for sanitary landfills, and in gaining user acceptance. Frequently, such efforts have been undertaken in cooperation with the respective State Health Departments.

In Montana the State RD Committee is working on a brochure for county officials about solid waste collection.

In addition to providing electric and telephone service, many REA-financed systems are helping bring other vital community facilities to their service areas. About one-third of the REA borrowers responding to a recent survey reported assisting 410 community facilities projects during 1973. Most of these projects related to providing central water service.

The kinds of assistance reported were:

1. Legal assistance in forming the necessary organizations.
2. Helping identify potential water users.
3. Sponsoring citizen informational meetings.
4. Assistance with engineering matters.

EDUCATION -- Education is another service many communities want improved. The demand continues high for trained technicians and an educated labor force. Extension efforts have been launched to help the local communities understand the needs for quality education and the opportunities for achieving it. There is much interest in vocational and technical training and greater utilization of school facilities for community activities throughout the summer and during the school year.

TRANSPORTATION -- Transportation concerns tend to evolve around improved streets, highways, airport facilities and public transportation. The Regional Rail Reorganization Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-236) provides a step-by-step procedure for reorganizing the railroads of 17 states into an economically viable system capable of providing adequate and efficient rail service for the Northeast corridor. The Act delineates the various steps whereby this reorganization can take place in a relatively short period of time.

The Rail Service Planning Office (RSPO) asked Extension to assist it in getting educational information to the communities and users of rail services in rural areas of the region and to provide educational assistance to communities and agribusiness affected by the reorganization.

The Soil Conservation Service provided technical assistance in developing a wide range of community facilities, some in cooperation with other USDA agencies. Such innovative community projects as providing adequate drainage and compaction for sports fields, establishing outside conservation laboratories for schools, soils leveling, drainage and compaction for community airports and assisting in establishing temporary impoundments for flood-prone areas are examples. Although not always thought of as community facilities in the traditional sense, these contributions many times bring about further community economic activity which is essential to optimum development of rural areas.

The Forest Service has given technical assistance in the fields of ecology, fire protection, transportation and other utility needs to local rural communities that make the local facilities possible or of greater use.

CSRS reports these studies underway concerning community facilities:

1. Florida - Planning and Financing Public Services for Rural Communities
2. Massachusetts - Community Services for Nonmetropolitan People in the Northeast
3. Rhode Island - Developing a Transportation System Model for Nonmetropolitan Rhode Island
4. Tennessee - Fire Prevention and Protection Services for Rural Areas of Tennessee

HOUSING

Recent trends in the housing sub-sector of the economy have led to greater difficulties in obtaining adequate housing for low-income people. Increased pressures on land use are also having a significant impact on the supply of housing in many areas.

Costs for materials and labor have increased during the year, making the cost of a home for a rural family higher, while in many cases the family income is constant or less. In some cases where low-income families obtained new homes through FmHA, they are having difficulties with making the payments. In such instances, FmHA supplies technical assistance through supervised accounts to keep defaults at a minimum.

During FY 74, FmHA has emphasized rural rental housing for low-income and elderly families. Loans for purchase of existing dwellings and for repair were also more prominent.

Extension community resource development workers continue to respond to local people wanting information about the community housing situation, and to assist with the organization of local, regional or state level organizations to address the problems identified.

FmHA freqently holds information meetings with local committees relating to site development, minimum property standards and eligibility requirements.

The Extension home economics staffs have provided assistance in response to local housing needs. In many states, county Extension personnel have conducted information programs for low-income families to acquaint them with housing assistance programs available and to instruct them in loan application procedures. Many also conducted workshops on the various aspects of homeownership. These workshops covered such topics as construction costs, building materials, maintenance and repair of household equipment and appliances, heating and cooling systems, financial management, insurance and home grounds improvement. Much of this activity was conducted in cooperation with local Farmers Home Administration offices, with emphasis on families receiving new FmHA housing loans.

More new houses being financed by FmHA are in approved subdivisions. Efforts are made to get local leaders to sponsor subdivision development.

Highlights and Achievements

Several states have prepared educational materials and conducted workshops relating to mobile homes. New Hampshire distributed 3,500 copies of a specially-prepared information packet on mobile homes; Georgia Extension has worked with the State Legislative Committee in establishing state mobile home legislation; Tennessee Extension is developing fact sheets on mobile homes, thereby pulling together existing but scattered and fragmented information for consumers and local officials.

Illinois FmHA reports it holds periodic state meetings with suppliers, contractors and manufacturers of modular housing to provide technical assistance in the development of rural housing. This assures quality control of subdivision development, septic systems and water supply. Eight other states specifically reported similar meetings.

In Edwards County, Kansas, Extension assisted community leaders in conducting a housing survey and study. As a result of the survey, community leaders have organized a housing corporation and are constructing new homes in the town of Lewis.

Iowa FmHA conducted a county-by-county housing study to determine the housing potential in each.

The increased pressures on the housing sub-sector have led several state Extension Services to involvement with a number of non-traditional types of Extension audiences. Recognizing the need for increased local level and private sector imput into solving housing problems, Wisconsin and Oregon have worked extensively with such new housing audiences as builders, mortgage companies, planners, real estate brokers, housing project managers, housing authority personnel and government officials. In Massachusetts, much success has been attained through workshops on zoning and subdivision control for planning boards, boards of appeal, building inspectors, planning consultants and residential developers.

Maine FmHA supported a series of informational meetings in 18 communities relating to site development, minimum property standards and eligibility requirements. New Mexico and Utah have reported similar meetings.

Extension continued to provide low cost housing plans to rural families. In some states, Extension engineers participated in testing programs of construction materials.

Rural people with particularly severe housing problems received special attention in a number of housing programs.

Extension has worked closely with the people of Cloverdale Crossroads, concerned groups, public officials and FmHA personnel in Sussex County, Delaware helping to alleviate housing problems of low-income residents. Since the assistance began, more than 60 families have applied for FmHA 504 program home improvement loans, with 20 loans approved, 25 in process and only 15 withdrawn or rejected.

In Puerto Rico, FmHA site loans have been made and at least 66 low-income families have housing as a result. This came about through meetings which provided information to families, builders, and local leaders.

In Texas, Extension conducted seminars on retirement housing for about 400 people in five counties.

Programs for Indians included a multi-program effort on Alaska's Metlakatla Indian Reservation, including care and maintenance of homes and equipment and home landscaping plans. In cooperation with a HUD-funded Turnkey III project, similar programs were conducted on several Montana reservations and intensive assistance provided to some 140 families on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation in Idaho in the complete process of obtaining land, making loan applications, and furnishing and caring for the home.

Arizona FmHA assisted in Indian housing, particularly with the San Carlos and White Mountains Apache Tribes.

In Colorado, older houses are being rehabilitated through FmHA loans. In West Virginia, repairs of existing dwellings are made possible by working with the Interagency Housing Council and the Housing Development Fund.

Labor housing efforts were advanced in California, Colorado and New York. In South Dakota, FmHA worked with 150 communities to provide information and technical assistance to self-help housing, particularly in four counties. Arizona, Oklahoma and Minnesota reported similar emphasis.

In Florida, the state has funded eight FmHA assistant county supervisors and provided a $2.5 million loan program which is available to counties and cities for site acquisition and development.

In Gadden County, Florida, an Extension effort to identify more specific housing needs and problems led to establishment of a county housing advisory committee. This committee's work, in turn, led to formation of a county housing regulatory board. As a result of this board's interest and action, a county housing authority is being established to work on low-income housing needs.

Wyoming FmHA has presented slides at state, county and job fairs to help make people aware of housing available for low- to moderate-income families.

North Carolina FmHA worked with the State Department of Transportation and related agencies to see that housing built by FmHA is situated on properly-maintained roads.

A survey of community development activities indicated that, during 1973, some 75 REA borrowers assisted with projects concerning housing. The assistance took several forms. Examples are: arranging financing, forming housing authorities and surveying housing needs.

CSRS reports the following projects for FY 74:

1. California - Impact of Federal Housing Programs on the Provision of Housing for Low-Income Households
2. Georgia - Quality Housing Environment for Low-Income Families
3. Massachusetts - Model for the Evaluation of Government Housing Actions for the Rural Population

FS reported efforts to help communities make and implement decisions relating to improving the quality and increasing the quantity of housing. Some of the topics studied were: performance of wood construction in disaster areas; principles for protecting wood buildings from decay, insect and decay problems in housing, and finding and keeping a healthy home.

A study conducted by ERS indicated that over 1.2 million households lack complete plumbing in areas served by FmHA. This information is being used by state leaders to develop programs to upgrade housing or supply other housing to low income families.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

While measures of the health and welfare of the American people indicate a steady improvement over the years, local differences, and particularly rural differences, tend to be hidden in national statistics.

Health care needs are often found to be greater in rural areas than in the cities, but rural people do not have the same opportunities to receive health care services as do urban people. Generally speaking, in rural areas, the physician shortage is more acute; persons must travel longer distances to obtain health care; the median age level of the population is higher and the median income level is lower; emergency health services are more deficient; work-related injury rates are higher; and a comprehensive approach to health care delivery is less often utilized than in urban areas.

Individually, and collectively as members of state and local rural development committees, USDA agencies were actively involved in programs to improve the level of health of rural people and the system of delivery of health care services in rural areas in FY 74. This involvement consisted of research on rural health care delivery systems, educational programs dealing with a wide range of health-related topics, providing technical assistance and organizational leadership, and on-going participation with other local, state, and federal agencies, planning groups, and public officials in developing and implementing a wide variety of projects.

The USDA activities were aimed at health maintenance and disease prevention among individuals and families by working with those agencies engaged in ongoing health programs. This category includes such programs as family planning, drug abuse and venereal disease education, prenatal and child care, first-aid, immunization campaigns and participation in a wide range of health screening programs.

USDA agency personnel were also involved in activities which increased the knowledge of local leaders, health and welfare related organizations, and public decision makers regarding local health and welfare needs. Included in this category were organizational and technical assistance efforts in support of local committees and health needs surveys, assistance to area health districts, regional and state level health councils, health maintenance organizations and area emergency medical services systems.

Statistical Highlights

The involvement of USDA agencies and rural development committees in rural health and welfare activities continued to increase in FY 74. The number of different projects assisted rose from 5,300 in FY 73 (already up from 4,019 in FY 72) to 7,767 in FY 74. Man-years expended in this thrust increased by some 37 percent, from 166 in FY 73 to 228 in FY 74.

An increase of 2,173 in the number of workshops, conferences and meetings assisted (from 5,000 to 7,153) also indicates a continued expansion.

Highlights and Examples

In response to needs to comply with federal and state safety and health legislation requiring persons trained in first-aid to serve migrant labor housing residents, the Adams County, Pennsylvania, Extension Service organized first-aid training classes that resulted in 78 persons being certified to respond to medical emergencies. In both the Chequamegon and Nicolet National Forests in Wisconsin, Forest Service personnel who are qualified first-aid instructors provided Red Cross First-Aid Training courses to local rescue squads and volunteer fire departments.

In Allegan County, Michigan, an Extension educational program, based on needs identified in a survey of permit home operators, provided operators with knowledge and skills which improved the quality of care received, assured the viability of this system of adult care and made it possible for the residents to remain in their local community.

The Rural Development Service published and distributed over 4,000 copies of "Health Services in Rural America," Agriculture Information Bulletin No. 362. In this bulletin, rural health care needs and services are compared with those in urban areas, federal health care legislation and its effect on rural areas are discussed, and examples of successful new public and private experimental health delivery programs are presented. Rural health care delivery systems are also the subject of a research contract awarded by RDS and the Farmers Home Administration. And two research projects being funded by CSRS focus on this same issue. They are the Mississippi study, "Alternative Medical Service Delivery System for Rural Areas in Mississippi" and "Health Care Delivery Systems as they Serve Rural People," a Michigan study. In California, Extension is cooperating with the School of Medicine, University of California, Davis, in a pilot project to develop a model for rural health services delivery.

Grant Parish, Louisiana, obtained parish-wide ambulance service through the efforts of an Extension-organized citizens' action group and the local rural development committee. An individual in the Montana Division of Forestry contributed significantly to organizing MESH -- Missoula Emergency Services for Health. And FS employees helped organize the Fannin County, Georgia, rescue squad.

The only rural mobile breast cancer screening project in the nation is jointly sponsored by Extension and the Extension Homemakers Council in South Dakota. In Delaware, Extension is providing training in child care methods for day care center workers.

Extension has provided much of the driving force in promoting the addition of public health nurses in several Kansas and Iowa counties. Ohio Extension continues to provide close cooperation with and leadership to, the Ohio Health Council.

State and local rural development committees were also actively involved in a number of health and welfare matters in FY 74.

In Rockwall County, Texas, the County RD Committee participated in initial discussions, outlined needs and provided statistical information to local leaders and hospital directors which should lead to the establishment of a hospital branch clinic in the county.

Members of several state and local RD committees serve on local, regional or state health planning agencies and other health organizations. In Virginia, the State RD Committee has worked for closer cooperation between the State Health Department, the medical profession and others concerned with improved health services in rural areas and has supported the establishment of comprehensive regional health planning areas. Rural safety informational thrusts were conducted by the RD committee in Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska. Similarly, the Maryland Rural Affairs Council (State RD Committee) has been actively involved with the Maryland Agricultural Safety and Health Federation. A farm accident survey is being conducted by the federation which will lead to the development of educational materials.

The county RD panels in North Carolina were surveyed on the state's rural health problems as a means of helping the State Task Force on Rural Health. The county panels are using the survey results in directing their health and welfare activities. In Graham County, this has led to an organized effort to recruit more doctors to practice there. In Puerto Rico, RD Committees have been active in planning and assisting a wide range of projects, including rural medical centers, sports and recreational facilities, a Head Start Center and sanitary landfills.

In Northwest Oklahoma, ERS and Extension analyzed needs for ambulance service for emergencies, routine use and hospital transfer. Private services will be terminated as new regulations become effective. A projection of needs indicates that Alfalfa County will require 345 ambulance trips annually. Costs and benefits of alternative methods of providing equipment and personnel have been presented to the community. A decision is being made for financing and implementing a county wide system as soon as possible.

MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT

The recognition, development, and utilization of human resources in rural areas have been prime thrusts of the USDA rural development effort. The major contributions in manpower development focus on reducing low skill levels and improving income levels of rural people as well as improving opportunities for skilled and semi-skilled labor in agriculture and other professions and trades in rural areas. To meet the demands of the changing times, a wide variety of manpower development programs have included:

1. Organization of local manpower committees.
2. Surveys of area manpower and educational needs.
3. Career counseling and career education programs.
4. Training programs ranging from heavy equipment operators, to auto mechanics, to secretaries, to nurse's aides, to work in the forests, to engineering aides.
5. Farm management.
6. Employment for handicapped and low-income people, the aged, students and housewives.
7. Training of veterans.

Statistical Summary

USDA has increased its time expended on technical assistance for manpower development in the United States. About 253 man-years were devoted to this thrust in FY 74 by USDA, in cooperation with federal, state and local governments and the private sector. This compares to 241 man-years expended in FY 73. Nationwide, USDA assisted in 3,798 community projects to improve manpower development in FY 74 as compared to about 2,750 projects in FY 73, or an increase of approximately 1,050 projects (38 percent).

This increase in emphasis for manpower development has helped to improve employment opportunities for many employable groups in rural areas. The selected highlights that follow clearly depict the USDA contribution towards improving and developing manpower.

Highlights

The Umpqua National Forest in Oregon has participated in the local Ancillary Manpower Planning Board programs and has actively participated in local vocational training programs at Roseburg High School. Umpqua National Forest also directed a Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center, providing educational and work skills for about 220 young men.

The Sierra National Forest, California, in conjunction with the NYC Program, provided transportation, supervision and training for 60 disadvantaged youths daily throughout the summer. The youths received work experience in forestry activities on two ranger districts. In addition to the manual skills acquired, the youths learned pride in workmanship and the will to work.

During the past year, the Forest Service in Mississippi strengthened its participation in various manpower training programs. Over 100 enrollees gained work experience through the Neighborhood Youth Corps (NYC) sponsored by local nonprofit organizations, and the Public Employment Program (PEP) sponsored by county boards of supervisors. These programs provided opportunities for youths between the ages of 14 and 22 for valuable training that may help them to secure a lifetime vocation. The project also participated in Operation Mainstream. This program provides for hiring the older, chronically unemployed poor who are unable, because of age or other factors, to secure appropriate employment or training assistance under other programs.

A College Work-Study agreement in California was completed between the Angeles National Forest and Pasadena City College. The agreement is mutually advantageous in that it helps low-income students to gain practical experience in their chosen fields while earning money and allows the Angeles to extend this opportunity at a low outlay of appropriated funds.

In South Central Kentucky, the Division of Forestry has trained NYC enrollees in trail building and forest fire suppression. The boys also learn to maintain trucks and dozers. Vital experience was gained by these youths as they helped clear debris from towns and communities struck by tornados. They learned how to approach different jobs by clearing roadways to get into homes and how to help salvage household goods and lumber.

Forest Service personnel worked with Manpower Training Program sponsors in the Andalusia Interagency Council, Tuskegee Institute, city of Talladega, and various school systems in Alabama. These efforts resulted in jobs and on-the-job training for 40 high school dropouts through the Tuskegee Human and Forest Resource Program, 18 youths through the NYC Program, and 128 youths through the Youth Conservation Corps Program. As a result, [illegible]oximately two-thirds of the trainees were placed in the Tuskegee Progr[illegible]n training-related jobs, with full-time employment of a NYC participant with the Forest Service, six enrollees from the 1972 YCC camp returning as youth leaders for the 1973 camp, and 10 1973 camp enrollees returning as youth leaders for the 1974 camp.

The Truckee District in California has an agreement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to provide meaningful work and training experience for approximately 80 young men each year. BIA and the Bureau of Reclamation contribute supplies and wages for various work projects. The young Indian men enrolled in this program have completed approximately 25,000 man-hours of training project work and fire operation.

Examples of other manpower training programs in California:

The Sierra National Forest Service, in conjunction with the military service, provided work experience under Project Transition for enlisted personnel soon to be discharged who do not possess a civilian skill.

A pioneer effort with Trinity County Opportunity Center, a governmentally funded project that will primarily teach skills to mentally and physically handicapped people, was started on the Hayfork District, with the objective of eventually offering sales of products manufactured by the enrollees.

In continuing the Judicial Incentive Program, the Saugus Ranger District accepted volunteers from five local courts to perform work on the Angeles National Forest in lieu of paying fines or serving jail sentences. Approximately 84,000 man-hours of work was performed.

The Puerto Rico State Education Department, Labor Department, Cooperative Development Administration and the nuns of Buen Pastor, together with Extension personnel, are training 20 youngsters 17-21 years old in auto mechanics and auto body painting.

The Mississippi Employment Service has employed rural manpower specialists in many counties of the state. The specialist in each county has been invited to become a member of the county RD committee. He will, thereby, be better able to inform county committees as to job opportunities and training programs. Several counties have had success in referring individuals to employment or training programs.

New industry in the Texas Panhandle, generated by the growing cattle feedlot business, has resulted in an estimated 8,000 jobs to be filled in the area by the end of 1974. A new beef packing plant in Moore County, scheduled to begin operation this summer, will employ an estimated 800 workers. With an already short labor supply, a cooperative manpower survey, involving Extension and the county RD committee, should play an important role.

In 13 states, Extension personnel are participating with state employment services in demonstration projects called Operation Hitchhike. Extension manpower agents are showing that, through interagency cooperation and coordination, employment services can be efficiently provided in rural areas.

In one Idaho county, the Extension manpower agent responded to local community and employer requests and helped set up 10 on-the-job training contracts. In Gloucester County, Virginia, the county Extension chairman worked with the school board in establishing 45 in-school NYC slots. Hitchhike agents in Oregon initiated and organized a course on irrigation equipment operation and a nurse training program was started in Alabama.

Georgia, South Dakota and Arkansas have program similar to Hitchhike.

RECREATION AND TOURISM

The Department's efforts in recreation and tourism are mainly directed toward helping communities make and implement decisions related to development, improvement and operation of recreation and tourism services and facilities.

USDA agencies and rural development committees have provided county boards, recreation commissions, local communities, special interest groups, and community leaders with survey statistics, demand analysis, design layouts and financial advice on improving their local recreational facilities. In addition, National Forest recreational opportunity often provides the impetus for community development and recreational opportunity for a great number of the nation's people.

Creating an awareness of the need for facilities in local communities, assisting in establishing local sponsoring organizations, identifying specific project areas, selecting sites for recreational projects, formalizing specific projects and confirming local dollar commitments on projects are all contributions of USDA agencies and rural development committees.

Statistical Highlights

Before recreational facilities are constructed by private individuals or groups, a feasibility study is usually completed to determine whether such investment is valid. During FY 74 the Department assisted or was involved in the preparation or review of almost 2,768 feasibility studies. In addition, over 300 man-years of recreation and tourism technical assistance was provided to those who needed this type of service.

Examples

There are many examples of Department agencies and RD committees helping people help themselves in recreation and tourism efforts. In Oklahoma, the Extension Service worked with both tourist and Chamber of Commerce organizations and individual tourist operators in helping make tourism a viable industry. In addition, a specialist was employed who designed an educational program about historic sites in Oklahoma that increased the knowledge of both public and private tourist operators.

Rural electric cooperatives in Southern Indiana advertised extensively about tourism as an "industry without smokestacks" and attracted over 16,300 families to 100 different festivals. This program brought in an estimated $1.5 million to Southern Indiana.

Numerous new recreation and tourism research publications were produced by the Forest Service and Cooperative State Research Service that aided in furthering recreational opportunity, second home development, and income sources for local rural communities.

In tying land treatment to recreation, a conservation plan was developed by the Soil Conservation Service and is being implemented on a 600-acre recreational enterprise in Washington County, Minnesota. Many people are using the facilities, and the additional income to the local community has been substantial.

The Utah Travel Council, Utah Parks and Recreation Department and Forest Service are working with the Federation of Women's Clubs in locating braille and handicap facilities for local residents in Northwest Utah.

The RD Committee in Puerto Rico has been helping in the development of sports areas, basketball courts, parks and new recreational facilities.

In Oregon, considerable effort has been expended to improve landowner relationships with hunters, campers and fishermen.

The State Forestry organization has been providing aid to over 160 private campground operators in New Jersey in site layout, fire protection, insect and disease control and locating nature trails.

The RD committees in West Virginia, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota and Wyoming completed recreation surveys and inventories which identified opportunities for recreational development and existing facilities. County officials will be using the surveys as an aid in future planning activities.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT

USDA assistance on state and local measures contributing to environmental protection and improvement increased greatly during FY 74. Public opinion in environmental matters was complicated by the energy shortages felt throughout the nation. The need for development of new energy resources created pressures on USDA agencies to assist with the protection of environmental values under the strain of increased production. Concern with solid waste management, land use planning and erosion and sediment control has continued to be of prime importance in many rural areas.

Demand for the expertise contained in USDA agencies will continue to rise as the nation strives to meet its goals of producing more food, fiber and energy while protecting and improving the environment which is the source of these bounties. Reports from state and local rural development committees and from departmental agencies indicate that information and technical assistance provided on environmental improvement programs now make up over one-fourth of the total RD effort in USDA.

Statistical Summary

During FY 74, USDA personnel provided over 1,400 man-years of informational and technical assistance to communities, groups and agencies of state and local government on environmental protection and improvement. This compares to 1,187 man-years in FY 73 and 1,064 in FY 72. There were over 25,000 projects assisted, 6,761 surveys or feasibility studies provided and over 16,000 meetings, workshops and conferences assisted. More than 6 million newsletters, bulletins and fact sheets and other publications were distributed.

Highlights and Examples

The following examples were typical of the types of assistance provided during FY 74:

At pulp and paper mills, wood pulp fines, the short fibers that wash through the screen in the paper making process, are a pollution problem. The Forest Service estimates at lease one million tons of fines are discarded each year by the pulp and paper industry. At the forest products laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin, research has found that this material can be utilized in cattle feed. This could benefit beef and dairy communities located near pulp mills, while minimizing the costly problem of waste disposal.

In Florida, emphasis on environmental teaching centers resulted in cooperation between SCS, Forest Service and the Duvall County School Board in the preparation of basic plans for 18 sixth grade environmental teaching centers.

Future environmental improvement efforts depend greatly on the understanding of environmental issues which students are gaining at outdoor educational areas like this across America, usually with some type of USDA assistance or support.

Projects to encourage tree planting were noted in Nebraska, West Virginia, Kansas and Missouri. In Missouri, small bundles containing 12 tree seedlings of different species were made available for sale to homeowners for replacement of trees damaged by ice storms during the winter of 1972-73. Over 1,500 of these bundles were sold in a program that was popular since it provided seedling trees in the small numbers needed by urban homeowners.

In Junction City, Kansas, trees damaged by disease and ice were removed and replaced in a planting program involving several USDA agencies cooperating with state and city officials. Some 1,250 trees were planted in the spring of 1974.

The need for state land use policy to protect and improve the state's environment was the theme of a brochure published by the Iowa Rural Development Committee, entitled "Land Use Policy - Guide for a Growing Iowa."

Solid waste disposal occupied considerable effort in many states, including Mississippi, New Jersey, Missouri, West Virginia, North Carolina, Texas and Arkansas. A typical story comes from Arkansas where the Grant County RD Committee secured the assistance of county and state highway departments, local schools, civic clubs and citizens to sponsor a countywide clean-up campaign which resulted in a considerable amount of litter collected and 300 junk cars removed.

Proper disposal of pesticide containers creates an added problem in solid waste management; county RD committees in Mississippi assisted five counties to make arrangements for the safe disposal of these potentially dangerous containers.

In New Jersey, the special problems created when organic matter is buried in damp soils was the subject of a widespread informational campaign carried on by USDA agencies. Organic decomposition under wet conditions creates carbon dioxide, methane and hydrogen sulfide gases, which can be dangerous, damaging or toxic to plants and animals. Conditions causing the development of these gases have been increasing as the burning of organic refuse has ceased and good landfill sites have been more difficult to find. Underground gas formation has resulted in damage to trees, and problems with land owners next to sanitary landfill sites. USDA experts have been involved in attempts to solve these problems.

In West Virginia, the "Mountaineers for Rural Progress" have carried out an active program which has included a statewide conference on economic-environmental issues. The purpose of the conference was to develop communications and dialogue between West Virginians concerned with economic growth and those concerned with the maintenance of a healthy environment. Its theme was "A Better Life for More West Virginians Through Proper Understanding of Economic-Environmental Issues."

At the local level, the "Mountaineers" in Brooke and Hancock counties published a brochure with recommendations on establishing new lawns in order to prevent soil erosion and flooding of basements.

In North Carolina, as well as in some other states, the State RD Committee assisted with the development of rules and regulations for erosion and sediment control designed to carry out that state's sedimentation pollution act of 1973. County rural development panels are actively involved in this program and local soil and water conservation districts are responsible for reviewing the plans for erosion and sediment control measures on all sites of one or more acres.

In Texas, local rural development committees initiated programs to assist farmers in using fuel more efficiently. Methods of saving energy were carried to the public by meetings, news releases to papers, radio and television and ASCS monthly newsletters. By working with local dealers, fuel was secured for out-of-state dirt contractors so that local soil conservation programs could be completed during the non-cropping season.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

USDA agencies and the Cooperative Extension Services of the various states continue to provide information and technical assistance to communities and industries for the purpose of helping to increase job opportunities in rural areas. Technical aid takes various forms. For example, Extension assists existing or new industries and businesses in rural areas in solving managerial, technical, personnel, fiscal and other problems that may be hampering growth. The Forest Service assists with the technical matter associated with wood-using industries. The Farmers Home Administration provides technical assistance in connection with its business loan program and community facilities needed to support business development. Through its borrowers, the Rural Electrification Administration helps form local development corporations, survey labor supply, and seek financial sources for business development. The Soil Conservation Service assists business leaders faced with problems associated with soil and water resources. These are just a few examples of the type of technical assistance being provided by USDA agencies. In addition to applying USDA programs to the needs of communities, USDA employees help secure business development assistance from other federal agencies, state agencies and from the private sector, including educational institutions.

The educational and informational process is an important aspect of business development. Extension specialists take the lead in assisting communities in understanding the requirements of business and industry, evaluating community resources and developmng a course of action. Extension, along with FmHA, REA, SCS, FS, FCS and others, provided informational material and conducted workshops and conferences on business and industry development during the year. Information for business decisions results from research being conducted by ERS, ARS, CSRS and other USDA agencies. Providing research findings is a major component of the Department's information support to business development.

Helping improve the "business climate" with its information and technical assistance capabilities will continue to be an important function of USDA agencies.

Statistical Highlights

In carrying out technical assistance and informational activities during FY 74, Department personnel throughout the nation assisted communities or groups interested in business and industrial development with approximately 4,900 industrial or business projects; participated in or conducted 8,170 meetings, workshops or conferences and carried out 1,566 surveys or feasibility studies. A total of 234 man-years were devoted to this activity.

Highlights and Examples

The Industry and Commerce Subcommittee of the Louisiana RD Committee conducted a seminar on harvesting certain species of hardwood and the manufacture of round furniture stock. An industry representative from Georgia was present to demonstrate the manufacture of the round stock. It was hoped by the Committee that this would stimulate more hardwood use in the state.

Of the 149 industrial committees reported in Kentucky, Extension helped nine of these to organize, eight to reorganize and 29 with committee training during the year. Extension also provided significant assistance in the purchasing or optioning of 41 industrial sites involving 1,822 acres of land and with attracting 29 prospective industries. Extension workers also reported giving important assistance to 31 of 73 industrial development foundations. They explained the business management services of the University of Kentucky College of Business and Economics in 21 meetings involving 43 firms. Significant service was also given in the preparation of 27 industrial development brochures or revisions of such brochures by the Kentucky Department of Commerce. Extension workers feel that they made significant contributions toward the securing of 25 new industry locations involving 1,757 immediate jobs and a projected 4,724 jobs. They also felt they made important contributions to 18 industrial expansions creating 1,563 additional jobs.

To help Alabama people, Extension held six regional rural industrialization seminars in FY 74. These seminars grew out of an awareness on the part of Extension of the widening gap in knowledge between rural and small town leaders and those in urban areas who oftem employ professional industrial development representatives. Extension has also involved the Alabama Chamber of Commerce, Alabama Development Office, Alabama State Employment Service, Farmers Home Administration, Small Business Administration and the various Regional Planning and Development Commissions in these meetings. Alabama had a record year for industrial expansion in 1973. One hundred seventeen new industries announced their intentions of locating in the state outside of metropolitan areas. It is estimated that these new industries, when completed, will employ 13,311 people and involve a capital investment of $383,761,000. This reflects positively on the efforts of all groups, both public and private, that are working for rural industrial development.

A survey conducted by the Rural Electrification Administration revealed that, for calendar year 1973, 924 REA-financed electric and telephone systems assisted 911 community projects relating to business and industrial development. Such assistance took the form of helping arrange financing, securing plant design assistance, locating industrial sites, and securing marketing and management assistance. More than 50 percent of REA borrowers responding to the survey indicated representation on citizen development groups.

Soil Conservation Service assistance to small developing industries in rural areas is often a vital part of success. Recent accomplishments in the rural community of St. Bernice in Vermillion County, Indiana, resulted in such success.

St. Bernice, population 350, lost all local jobs when the railroad shops moved from the community. School consolidation resulted in an abandoned local high school building. A manufacturer purchased the abandoned high school and opened a jacket factory. Original employment was 10-15 people but soon increased to 40 employees.

Waste disposal facilities for the building were completely inadequate, resulting in a community health hazard. The County Board of Health issued a "correct or cease and desist order" to the company.

Company management requested assistance from the Vermillion County Soil and Water Conservation District. The SCS then provided soil data and interpretations relating to development of the on-site filter field. Based upon available soil interpretations, the county sanitarian and the local firm developed the necessary on-site filter field. The county commissioner agreed to assist with installation of surface drainage as recommended by SCS. SCS assisted the factory manager in developing a complete conservation plan to achieve needed drainage and erosion control.

The manufacturing company is now employing 125 people with a weekly payroll of $10,000.

By solving the waste disposal problem of the factory, jobs have been created for more local people with a better environment and livelihood for another rural community.

Indiana Division of Forestry utilization and marketing personnel have conducted five detailed sawmill analyses to help improve production and economic returns. In addition, seven seriously prospective sawmill developers have been supplied with detailed woodland resource information and generalized mill development advice. With the information that has been provided, each mill was able to make a determination of the practicality of their plans.

The Forest Service in Alabama negotiated a Small Business Administration contract with a minority contractor for a $23,000 timber stand improvement contract. This has enabled a local man to develop a small business for forestry contract work. This contractor is now cleared for other forestry-related contract jobs on all national forest lands in the state.

The vast array of program thrusts specified in the Agricultural Act of 1970 are all supported in some way by the entire program of the Agricultural Research Service. One particular thrust, business and industrial development, has benefited significantly during FY 74 through the inputs contributed by the ARS Agri-Business Program. For example: The favorable findings shown by the ABP comprehensive investigation into the feasibility of establishing new cotton processing facilities in west Texas resulted in a new $15 million open-end spinning plant in Levelland. In addition, a textile project valued at $28 million has been approved under the Rural Development Act of 1972 by FmHA in the same area. Direct employment in these plants will result in more than 500 new jobs and hundreds of cotton farmers will likewise benefit from the new market outlets.

RURAL COOPERATIVES

During FY 74, the Department and its pertinent agencies continued to make meaningful efforts to assist rural people in their cooperative development efforts. The assistance covered a broad spectrum. It assisted both organized and emerging cooperative groups to organize their limited resources to obtain the best efficiencies in the areas of marketing facilities, supplies, machinery and equipment, storage, processing equipment, transportation and other needed services to help improve cooperative members' income and quality of family living.

As in the past, cooperative rural development activity was centered around agricultural cooperatives. Rural craft development had another surge of interest and growth. Extra interest was also created in the areas of fishing, transportation, credit, forestry, recreation, grazing, water and sewer associations.

Rural groups requested USDA assistance to help organize and aid existing cooperative groups in such areas as business planning, business management, accounting and record analysis, quality control, transportation, labor management and financing. Technical assistance groups are backstopped by basic Farmer Cooperative Service research.

During the year, the Department also completed a major evaluation study on the Impact of USDA Programs Upon Rural Cooperatives. The study was undertaken in response to a Secretary's Memorandum setting forth the Department's policy that USDA agencies carry out the spirit and intent of legislation for support of cooperatives, and offer maximum encouragement to cooperatives as a means of improving farm income and developing rural America. The study describes the extent to which USDA programs attempt to impact on the growth and development of rural cooperatives, and reports and evaluates recent changes in policies, program design. procedures, regulations or priorities designed to benefit the cooperatives.

Statistical Significance

USDA information and technical assistance to rural cooperatives is increasing. The number of man-years devoted to this program thrust was doubled from 44 in FY 72 to 89 in FY 73 and further increased to 106 in FY 74. The number of projects assisted reflected some of this interest, increasing from 1,410 in FY 72 to 1,886 in FY 73 to 2,045 in FY 74.

Highlights

USDA's interest in rural development is built on the philosophy that all cooperative attempts should be feasible and then develop into viable economic units for rural people.

Cooperative educational work has been with newly-organized low income, aging or disadvantaged groups as well as with established cooperatives.

Extension Service, working with the Farmer Cooperative Service, has helped to develop many craft and heritage fairs which in turn have facilitated some native American crafts in becoming viable industries. They have also provided more employment opportunities for rural people.

During the past five years, Extension has provided assistance to groups on Indian reservations in Montana interested in crafts. One cooperative, the Chippewa Cree Crafts, provides employment to Indian women for making beadwork. In the past year, the cooperative has been faced with increased competition from church-organized groups and private sales. Extension provided assistance in developing marketing techniques and advertising to make the cooperative more competitive.

A fishing co-op in Puerto Rico received Extension help to solve organizational problems of obtaining free access to fishing areas. About 300 families were organized into a cooperative to negotiate their problems. The fishermen are now operating their business without many of the limitations imposed on fishing areas before organization.

FCS conducted a feasibility study for Sound and Sea Fishermen's Association, Wanchese, North Carolina, and is presently assisting in the implementation of the study. The co-op has 260 boat operator members who will ship approximately 9 million pounds of fish during the first year's operation. The major impact of the co-op on the members and the community is to upgrade the marketing conditions and pricing and to increase financial returns to fishermen in the 10-county area.

To assist rural cooperatives, FCS conducted a study to determine the need for capital to expand livestock production in the Southeast from 1973-85. It was discovered that more than 10 percent of the farmers were unable to obtain credit to finance livestock operations. FCS conducted a farmer survey to determine the livestock production credit needs in five states -- Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi. FCS recommended that a new cooperative credit corporation be organized as a subsidiary of an existing marketing cooperative to serve part of the unmet need.

In New Mexico, considerable effort and time has been spent by the Forest Service and State Forestry in developing cooperative livestock operations on National Forest lands. In some cases, this effort has extended into the base ranch operations.

The Indian Jojoba project moved forward in FY 74. This cooperative program concerns the first commercialization of Jojoba on Sonoran Desert Indian Reservations. The wild Jojoba plant produces berries that contain a liquid/wax with the same chemical properties as sperm whale oil, which is no longer available for use in high speed transmissions, cutting oils and various other uses. FCS assisted in organizing the San Carlos Apache Marketing Association. Four bands of Mission Indians in Southern California are also participating in a development corporation. The Office of Native American Programs (HEW) has provided the basic funding. The University of Arizona and the University of California (Riverside) have contracts to provide agronomic and industrial expertise for the Indians. The San Carlos Apache Marketing Association is now setting up a candle manufacturing plant using the Jojoba liquid/wax.

The Forest Service assisted the Georgia Forestry Commission in organizing Forest Owners Association, Inc. The Association covers an eight-county area in Southeast Georgia. Its purpose is to encourage forest landowners, forest industry, governmental agencies and others to blend their resources to increase forest productivity and the quality of trees grown on the 2,067,706 acres of commercial forest land. Association members believe that application of modern forest management techniques can double current forest production. Soil conditions, water quality and improvement of wildlife habitat and esthetics are also major considerations.

The Forest Service has also assisted the San Bernadino Forest Districts and the various local fire agencies periodically to discuss mutual aid problems. The result is a more efficient fire control effort on the mountains of California.

In Idaho and Montana, federal and state foresters worked with grazing associations. Cooperative organizations such as farm organizations and rural fire districts also were given technical assistance. Assistance was given to farm cooperatives in their forest products handling.

The California Rural Development Committee initiated a farmworkers cooperative survey. An effort is being made to determine why some are successful and what could have been done to save others from detrimental experiences. This study will be completed during FY 75.

FCS continues to monitor the progress of the Cooperative Central, Salinas, California. This is a strawberry-producing cooperative with a membership of 63 families. The families picked $1,250,000 worth of strawberries in their first year of operation. Each family earned about $13,000 for its "piece of the action." Management assistance was given to the manager and board members.

APPENDIX A

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ASCS	Kenneth Frick, Administrator Glenn Weir, Associate Administrator
CSRS	Roy Lovvorn, Administrator
ERS	Quentin West, Administrator
Extension Service	Edwin L. Kirby, Administrator George Hull, Associate Administrator
FCS	Ronald Knutson, Administrator
FmHA	Frank Elliott, Administrator
Forest Service	John McGuire, Chief Rexford Resler, Associate Chief
RDS	Walter Guntharp, Administrator William Ward, Acting Deputy Administrator
REA	David Hamil, Administrator David Askegaard, Acting Deputy Administrator
SCS	Kenneth Grant, Administrator Norman Berg, Associate Administrator
Secretary:	Jerry Klement, RDS

APPENDIX C

STATEWIDE NON-USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT GROUPS

ALABAMA Rural Development Committee; Ralph Jones, Extension Service, Chairman; 75 members.

FLORIDA -- State Rural Areas Development Committee; J.N. Busby, Extension Service, Chairman; 54 members.

IOWA Rural Policy; Governor Robert Ray, Chairman; 15 members.

KENTUCKY -- Governor's Council on Rural Development, Wendell Butler, Commissioner of Agriculture, Chairman; 11 members.

MASSACHUSETTS -- Governor's Rural Development Task Force; Nathan Chandler, Commissioner of Agriculture, Chairman; 14 members.

MICHIGAN -- Governor's Council on Rural Development; Robert Kliene, Governor's Office, Chairman; 14 members.

MINNESOTA -- Governor's Rural Development Council; Jon Wefald, Commissioner of Agriculture, Chairman; 26 members.

NEVADA Resource Action Council; John Lavin, Forest Service, Chairman; 37 members.

OHIO Resource Development (RAD) Committee; Riley Dougan, Extension Service, Chairman; 46 members.

PENNSYLVANIA -- Council of Rural Affairs, Ernest Jurkat, Governor's Office, Chairman; 11 members.

SOUTH DAKOTA -- Governor's Rural Development Committee; Robert Fitzgerald, Model Rural Development Program, Chairman; 20 members.

TENNESSEE Rural Development Group; William Bishop, Extension Service, Chairman; 75 members.

VERMONT -- Advisory Committee on Vermont Community Affairs; R.P. Davison, Extension Service, Chairman; 63 members.

VIRGINIA Resources Council; W.E. Skelton, Extension Service, Chairman; 34 members.

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STATE REFERENCES

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APPENDIX E

ABBREVIATIONS

ARS - Agricultural Research Service, USDA
ASCS - Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, USDA
BLM - Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior
CSRS - Cooperative State Research Service, USDA
EDA - Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce
EPA - Environmental Protection Agency
ERS - Economic Research Service, USDA
ES - Extension Service, USDA
FCS - Farmer Cooperative Service, USDA
FmHA - Farmers Home Administration, USDA
FS - Forest Service, USDA
FY - Fiscal Year
HEW - U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare
HUD - U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
RC&D - Resource Conservation and Development
RD - Rural Development
RDS - Rural Development Service, USDA
REA - Rural Electrification Administration, USDA
SBA - Small Business Administration
SCS - Soil Conservation Service, USDA
USDA - U. S. Department of Agriculture